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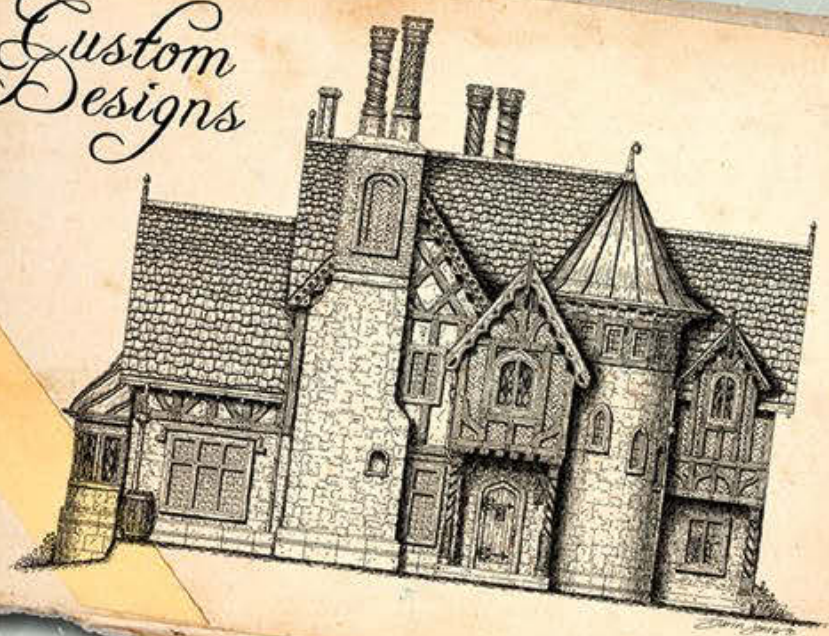
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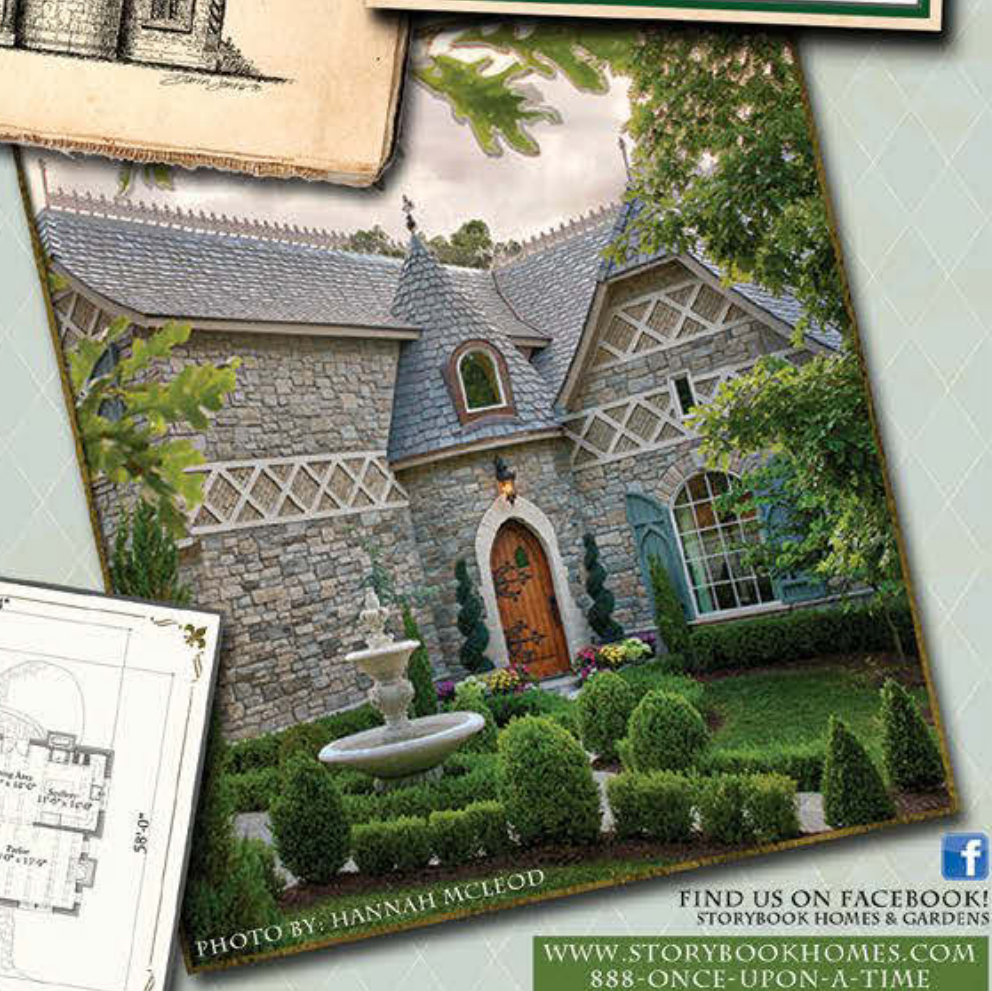












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PHOTO: MARK LOHMAN

Cottage Style 2015

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a word from the editor

A VACATION STATE OF MIND



We've all had those days. You know, the ones where you fantasize about taking a break from everyday life and escaping to somewhere—anywhere—where you can shut out the rest of the world and just take it easy.

Well, you don't have to travel anywhere to get away from it all... you just have to go home. Don't believe me? You will after you take a peek at this issue of *Cottage Style*. It features 15 amazing, must-see homes, plus one gorgeous garden, that live like vacation getaways, all year long.

The secret is making your house into the dream getaway you envision, no matter where you live. Find those things you love—bright colors, whimsical accents, luxurious fabrics—and fill your home with them. It's easy. As decorator Alison Kandler notes of her home's remodel: "The house does reflect our personalities. To us, living here is like a full-time vacation." Enjoy!

–Jodi



PHOTO BY MARK LOHMAN; STYLING BY SUNDAY HENDRICKSON

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ON THE COVER To maximize sea and sky views, the living areas are smartly situated on the second floor of this nautically appointed Nantucket getaway.
photo by **MARK LOHMAN**
styling by **FIFI O'NEILL**

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Submitted by Dennis Maynard, Laguna Woods, CA



LIVING EASY

Clear your schedule and set your cell phone to silent, it's time to take a breather. The simple life is all about striking a balance between having what you need to be comfortable and peppering in the stuff you love to feel fulfilled. Here, lively colors on walls and accessories keep the mood light, while natural woods and indoor-outdoor fabrics—indoors and out—provide surfaces that work hard, so you don't have to.

PHOTO: MARK LOHMAN

Sun & Fun REFLECTED

Michelle Lacy ushers California dreams into her cottage with bright fabrics and flea market discoveries.

Written by **SANDRA S. SORIA** *Photos by* **MARK LOHMAN** *Styling by* **FIFI O'NEILL**

Walking into the front door of this cottage feels like taking a drink of sweet sunshine. It starts with a bold yellow door that brightens the home's white exterior. That led to a favorite splurge: silk curtains from Anthropologie.



Michelle tapped into her love of sunny colors in an unlikely place—Portland, Oregon. "My style definitely got brighter there," says the Arizona-born marketing expert. "The color helped me battle all the gray."

When she and her partner, Bill Howell, decided to ditch the drizzle and make a break for the California sunshine, the saturated hues came with them. They transplanted themselves to this 1920s cottage, once part of a winery.

"This is a Mediterranean climate…it's grapes and olives here," says Michelle. "So the rich colors seem to fit right in."

Brightly painted cottage furniture and vintage textiles pepper the rooms with color. The hues are woven into quilts Michelle and her mother collect, old and new hooked rugs and even her favorite blooms…sunflowers.

A Coat for Many Colors

To help silhouette her collectibles, Michelle painted the walls art gallery white and refinished the wood floors to a warm, subtle brown. Always a home decorator's friend, white paint was a particularly important ingredient in this home's makeover process.





OPPOSITE A long, narrow two-tiered shelf makes room for a parade of the couple's favorite things, including shapely enamel vessels and vintage toys. **TOP LEFT** Michelle and Bill are drawn to old pieces with aged-to-perfection patinas, like this eye-grabbing antique clock face. **TOP RIGHT** Michelle takes a creative save-and-splurge approach to decorating. A Union Jack rug spied at Target and an Ikea desk with an industrial edge add design interest to her daily workspace. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Not much for formal dining, the couple chose a more convivial, primitive pedestal table—perfect for use as both a card and dining table—to fill this sunny front room. **BOTTOM LEFT** Michelle painted the back wall of these built-in shelves a light green to silhouette her collections.







"The house was stuck in the '80s," Michelle says, "when apparently navy and raspberry were all the rage. It was definitely a hot mess when we got a hold of it, but we learned there is a lot you can do with white paint."

The Makeover Strategy

Refreshing white paint worked its decorating magic in the kitchen for sure, where it updated cabinets and eased the remodeling budget.

"The cabinetry is good quality and was in good shape," Michelle says, "but they were high-gloss yellow maple…definitely a dated look." To give the project a smooth finish, she had cabinets professionally dipped to strip off the shiny faces before painting. A new farmhouse sink looks both modern and nostalgic, creating a visual bridge between vintage pieces and new stainless appliances.

Vacation Style

Colorful folk art and furniture pieces spark a fun, casual atmosphere in this home. Michelle furthered that vibe with slipcovered upholstery that encourages both friends and dogs to put their feet up and relax.

"This house gets messy and that's just fine with us," she says. "I don't want to live with things I'll cry over if they get broken."

Most of her pieces were sleuthed from flea markets and sales in the area. Some country pieces wear original coats of color, but others were freshened with paint for variety. Together, Michelle hopes her decorating and color picks create a happy atmosphere.

She explains, "I wanted it to feel like we're on vacation year-round."

ABOVE To create great arrangements, Michelle starts with a favorite piece, in this case a vintage Dr. Seuss game, then gathers items with similar colors and attitude. **RIGHT** To cook up more cottage charm in her kitchen, Michelle wrapped "an ugly drywall box" of an island with beaded board and topped it with butcher block. **OPPOSITE** An antique slate chalkboard has been passed down two generations to Michelle. "It takes four men to lift it," she says, "but I'll never let it go…I'll just stop moving!"



Be inspired!
Make staying organized part of your decor with a giant framed chalkboard, a stylish solution for posting notes and menus or just keeping everyone on track!

Essential Elements of **Folk Art Style**

When folk art collections create the design foundation, a charming home follows. Here are some of Michelle Lacy's style tips:

✻ BE IN WITH THE MIX
"My style is comfortable + colorful + vintage—obviously!—but I do love a mix of vintage, cottage, modern and funky."

✻ HANDMADE OBJECTS
"I couldn't imagine why my mom collected these old blankets when I was young, then I started asking for her pieces one by one. I use them, even though that's scary to my friends." *Editor's note*: For a great antique fabric cleaner, try Vintage Textile Soak.

✻ FAVORITE SHOPS
"There are so many great shops in the area, but my haunts are Chateau Sonoma, Atelier de Campagne in the Alameda Point Flea Market, and Summer Cottage Antiques, Chelsea Antiques and Sienna in Petaluma."

✻ SCENE SETTERS
"Start with something you love—a rug or a vintage piece—then pull the room's colors from that piece."

ABOVE Michelle learned to love vintage quilts and hooked rugs from her mother, a longtime collector of the colorful, hand-stitched works of art. She mixes them with modern novelty prints for maximum character. **RIGHT** Talk about ready to wear! An attic remodel made way for a closet that keeps the couple's wardrobe organized. **BELOW** The mostly utilitarian collectibles in this home share a bright spirit.





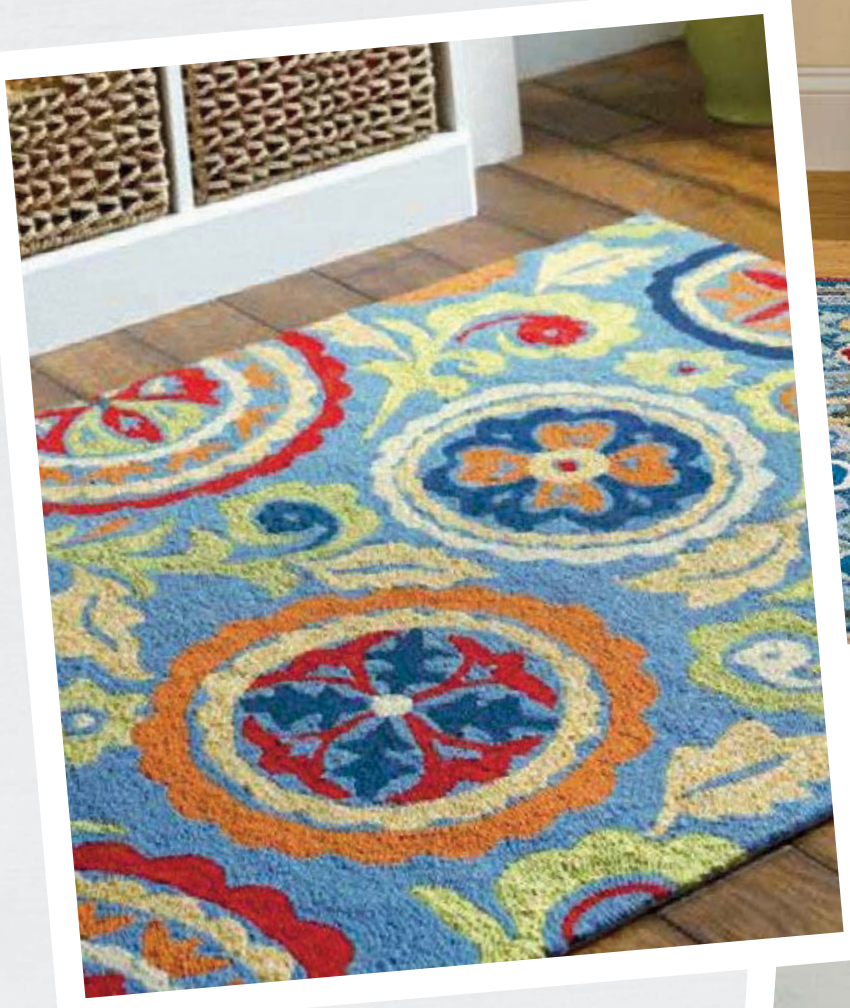
Hooked on Rugs

Color, comfort, style...
Need to pull together a room in a snap? A hooked rug's got you covered.



It Makes Cents

RIGHT Warm up a space in an instant with a durable, 100%-wool hand-hooked rug from LLBean (*llbean.com*). This pattern is Bright Blue Coins; subtle yet fun, it's sure to become a classic.



A Fun Twist

ABOVE With its medallion pattern and denim blue hue, the Fair Winds rug from Company C (*companyc.com*) offers nautical appeal. Great for outdoors use, too, it can be hosed off to clean and won't fade in the sun.



Step Lively

RIGHT Add some emphasis underfoot with the bright-hued shades of the Gypsy Rose Cotton Hooked Rug from Dash & Albert (*dashandalbert.annieselke.com*). Size options are available.

Open INVITATION

A chef and her husband cook up free-flowing spaces just right for entertaining.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **JOHN ELLIS** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**

RIGHT Homeowner Nancy Nimmo and dogs Holly and Rose greet visitors at the entry to their renovated ranch. **THIS PAGE** Nancy's husband, Mark "Dutch" Nimmo, rebuilt the family room shelves for an updated look.





When your walking buddy is an interior designer, sooner or later you'll end up with a different house. At least that's what happened to Laguna Niguel, California, cook Nancy Nimmo and her friend, interior designer Terri Barnum.

"We were pretty happy where we were," Nancy recalls of the former house she shared with her husband, Mark, whom she calls Dutch. "But Terri thought it would be so fun if 'someone' got a new house, so we were always looking when we walked."

Ranch Redo

The duo did ultimately come upon a 1977 ranch with a drop-dead gorgeous golf course view. The house itself, however, wasn't quite so pretty. "It was pink stucco and nothing had ever been done to it," Nancy says. "But we were empty-nesters, so we decided to go for it."

Because Nancy caters and hosts cooking classes through her business, Grace and

Flavour, the kitchen took priority. Removing a wall accommodated an enlarged work core with a generous island for classes and meal prep, while opening the kitchen to surrounding gathering areas ensures free-flowing entertaining and sunlight.

Brighter Outlook

Painting walls, ceilings and shelves white maximized natural light, so the spaces can comfortably handle dashes of courageous color. A piece of fabric and an afghan made by Nancy's mother inspired furnishings and accents in soft blue, highlighted with surprising punches of bold red.

"We didn't want anything grand or pretentious," Nancy says. "We just wanted a home that was fun, easy to live in and very comfortable." As the decor evolved, the couple looked for a dining room set with cottage styling, but no luck.

"Finally, Dutch said, 'Let's paint this one and see if it fits the house,'" Nancy recalls. A day and $35-worth of spray paint later and the table and chairs became a striking blue focal point—just the outcome Nancy hoped for.

"This has been a great project for a couple of empty-nesters," she says with delight. "We are happier here than we could have imagined."

ABOVE Discounted white wicker chairs—dressed in the same blue spray paint as the dining room set—continue the color theme to this area near the kitchen, where open shelves store a hobnail glass collection.



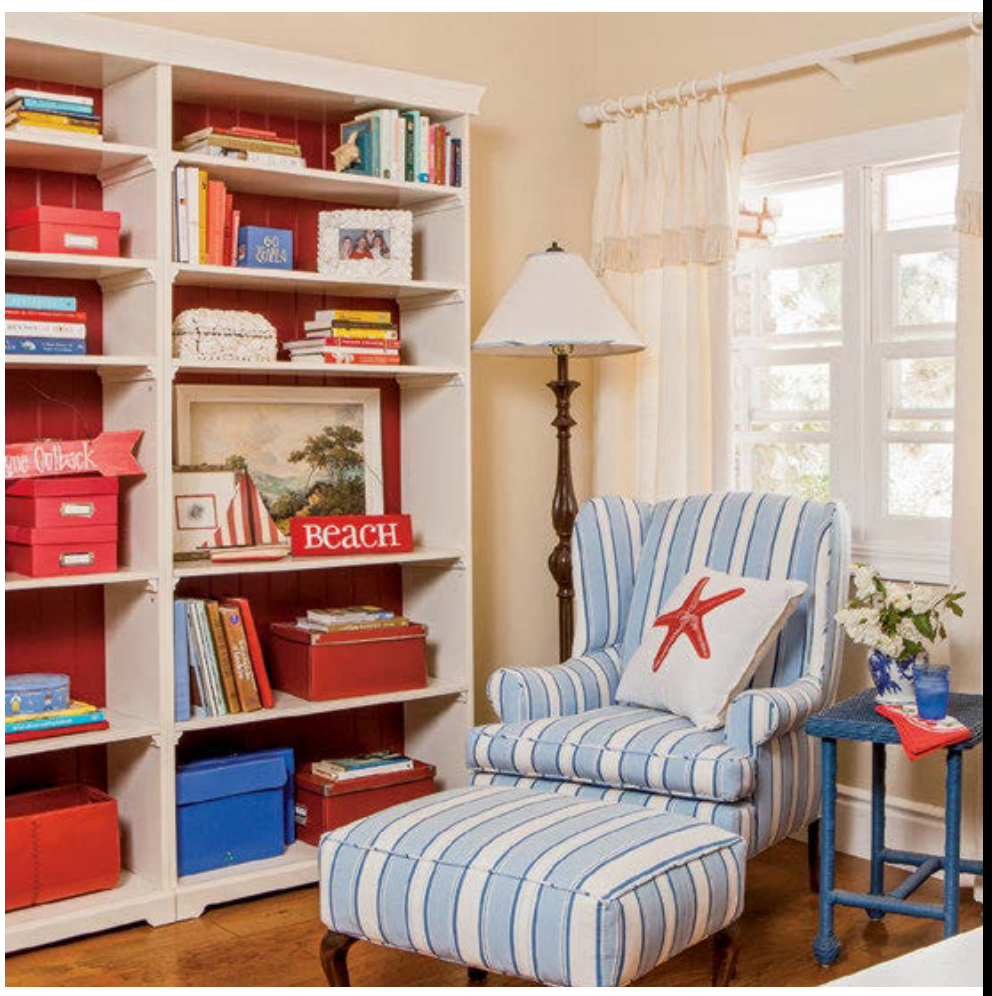


ABOVE An area rug becomes a bold red anchor for the blue spray-painted dining room set. In winter, Nancy transforms the chairs with white slipcovers to change up the look. **BELOW LEFT** An enameled bucket scored at T.J. Maxx serves as a pretty organizer for cutting boards. **BELOW** As many as 18 students gather on this side of the island, outside the work core, to watch and learn as Nancy cooks. When class is over, students can enjoy the fruits of her labor.





ABOVE A window seat and a charming blue-and-white gingham chair afford gorgeous views in the master bedroom. The cabinet shelves hold books, while baskets organize linens.
RIGHT Nancy uses this cozy spot with the striped wing chair and ottoman as her office, storing recipes in boxes on the shelves, which also house travel books for a little dreaming.



Essential Elements of California Cottage Style

Southern California promises ocean breezes, lots of sunshine, blue water and fun-filled interiors. Get the look wherever you live.

✻ **LIGHT AND WARMTH** With all kinds of sunshine available, avoid pure white for walls. Instead, look for softer white or a creamy hue with yellow undertones to brighten rooms without glare. Interior designer Terri Barnum selected a hue that homeowner Nancy Nimmo describes as "Nantucket White."

✻ **COLOR COURAGE** This is California style, so have some fun with unexpected color pairings. Nancy and Terri opted for a restful sky blue with splashes of bright red. Remember that opposites attract, so consult a color wheel if you have questions about complementary color pairs and the accents that harmonize with them.

The Nimmos laid a brick patio for entertaining and to maximize their indoor-outdoor lifestyle. At its heart, a mini Cape Cod house makes a one-of-a-kind table support.

1 2 3 4 5 6

Blues That Make Cottages Sing

Interior designer Terri Barnum shares her favorite blues for classic appeal that never goes out of style.

1. RALPH LAUREN CLUB NAVY "With navy blue you can do the quintessential red, white and blue that always brings a smile to people's faces," Terri says. "I also like navy with a pop of a more unexpected color, like hot pink or lime green or orange. Picture Kate Spade translated to a home interior."

2. MARTHA STEWART MORNING GLORY After having this color in her own home office, Terri chose it to cover the walls of Nancy's master bedroom, since it was a color she'd never tired of.

3. RALPH LAUREN SANDOVAL BLUE For Nancy's dining room chairs, Terri chose a color from Ralph Lauren's Sea and Sky collection. "I've used it numerous times and love its rich, warm shade," Terri notes.

4. SHERWIN-WILLIAMS 6509 GEORGIAN BAY This deep chambray tone looks very crisp and has a beachy vibe.

5. SHERWIN-WILLIAMS 6962 DAZZLE Terri put this pop of happy color on the laundry room walls to elevate the utility space to a place where Nancy wouldn't mind spending a little time.

6. SHERWIN-WILLIAMS 6961 BLUE BEYOND The color of an oxford shirt, this would be sweet for a boy's nursery. "I'd pair it with tiny stripes in blue and white and accent with red," says Terri.



Dynamic Duo
Pair any tone of blue with crisp white for the ultimate classic cottage combo.

Comfortably MODERN

Balanced design diversity highlights this home where past meets present, large nestles small and hip high-fives classic.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **SEAN LITCHFIELD FOR MEGHAN SHADRICK INTERIORS**

A harmonious merger of opposites, this living room juxtaposes an ornate Wisteria mirror with stacked artwork in sleek frames. An heirloom cabinet (its top used as a bar) and a sectional sofa offer a pleasing push-pull, teamed with a mod orange chair from Room & Board.

It's funny how that sectional looks perfect on the showroom floor. Then you get it home, and suddenly you hear yourself asking, *Wow, is that thing really that big?*

That was one of the decorating gremlins nagging a Medford, Massachusetts, homeowner as she noodled how to compose a stylish yet comfortable, cottage-infused scheme around ample seating. Interior designer Meghan Shadrick came on the scene—a new home with an open floor plan—and sized up solutions. "Sectionals eat up floor space, offering a lot of seating but often not much style," she says. "So I started with this foundational, more traditional piece as well as existing beaded board for cottage flair. I added elements to balance the scale of the room while bringing to light the homeowner's own bold, glowing personality." That meant incorporating a sprinkling of treasured family heirlooms along with some hip, modern punches.

Balancing Out Big

A few large-scale pieces help balance the prominence of the sofa. "It's okay to have something large scale in a smaller floor plan,"







ABOVE Wicker bar stools from Pottery Barn provide a natural textural balance to the abundance of crisp white cabinetry found throughout the kitchen. **TOP RIGHT** A simple, classic striped valance paired with blinds lends color and softness to the living room window. Wood occasional tables provide practicality and additional warmth. **RIGHT** To mix patterned pillows, Shadrick advises repeating shades and including a few solid colors, such as this one in blue, as a visual respite.

A midcentury-modern table, vintage Italian chairs and a new lighting fixture with a fun retro vibe play off of the traditional banquette, which stands out against white-painted beaded board.

Be inspired!

Durable indoor/outdoor fabrics and leather seat covers stand up to wear and tear in a high-traffic eating area.



Shadrick says, “but keep two strategies in mind: One is to balance the large-scale pieces with smaller ones, and the other is to take advantage of vertical space and draw the eye upward, so the room looks bigger and more proportioned.”

In the living area, for example, an oversized verdigris-framed mirror and a stacked arrangement of framed prints on the adjacent wall emphasize ceiling height. Shadrick rounded out the seating arrangement with a contemporary orange leather chair with chrome arms. “I like to juxtapose modern and traditional elements,” she says. “Chrome arms make it hip and less imposing while still giving you something to lean on.”

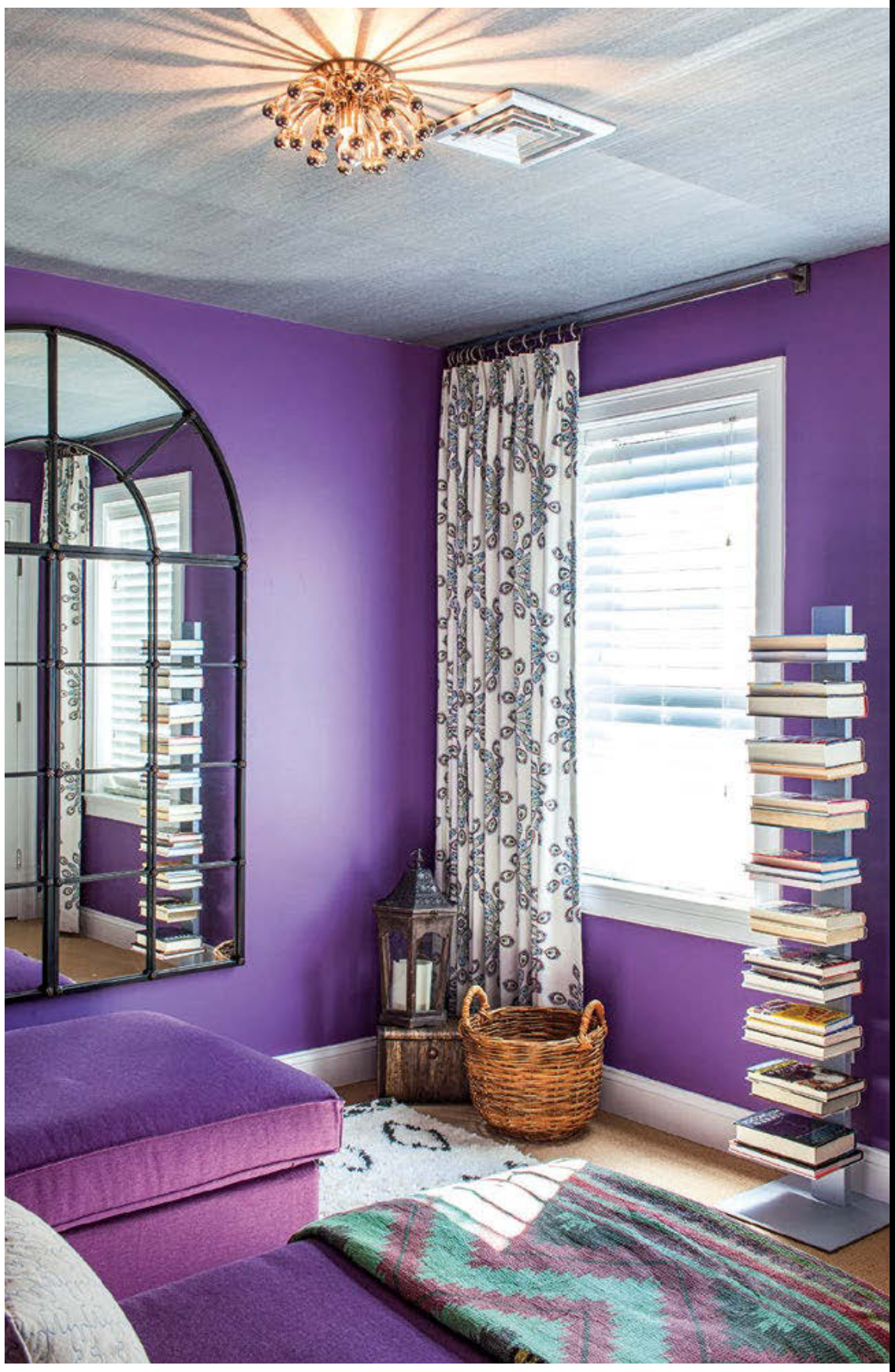
Creating Room to Relax

The sectional wasn’t the only design hurdle—a dining table interrupted the path to the patio door off the kitchen eating area. So Shadrick relocated a misplaced chandelier, moving it to illuminate a wall-hugging traditional banquette (teamed with a retro-look table and chairs). That trick resulted in a comfortable 3-foot-wide walkway to the patio door.

As getaways from these public areas, two bedrooms became restful retreats: One is dressed in an enveloping scheme of aubergine and outfitted with dual daybeds for reading by day and sleeping by night. The second, the master suite, is a calming blue, with coffee and cream hues that underscore its revitalizing role.

“The beauty of eclectic spaces lies in the rich layers to discover,” Shadrick sums up. “The space feels collected, not contrived.”

“The beauty of eclectic spaces lies in the rich layers to discover.”



ABOVE A saturated color scheme imbues this reading/guest room with tranquility. A large mirror and funky Jonathan Adler chandelier help brighten the space. **ABOVE LEFT** A pair of daybeds, chosen to create a restful monochromic palette with the existing purple walls, provide places to read by day and sleep by night.



how to LAYER IN TEXTURE

When you look at a room that feels lush and interesting, what you're likely responding to is its texture. "In terms of interior design, texture would be how any material is perceived, either visually or by touch," says Meghan Shadrick, who shares how to put it to work.

FOCUS ON THE FINISH Texture can be anything from a quilted pattern in a textile or the nubbiness or wrinkle of a linen to the smooth reflective sheen of mirror or glass—or any particular metal finish, for that matter. You can give a room a designer look by varying the finishes used throughout.

WORK THE MIX To create casual but successful compositions, layer different textures. For example, this bed feels luxurious thanks to its patterned, upholstered frame; contrasting ribbed bedspread; linen duvet cover and shams; and, finally, a leather throw pillow.

DON'T PLAY THE MATCH GAME A common mistake is purchasing a matching set of furniture or thinking that all the woods in a room should be the same. It ends up looking a little stale and less dynamic because your eye stops traveling to the next surface. If you have matching sets, break them up in different rooms.

OPPOSITE Adding dollops of warm coffee brown to the master bedroom's blue-and-white scheme "gives it a very rich, layered feel," Shadrick says. Family photos gain impact when framed and matted and arranged as a grouping. **ABOVE** A brown leather pillow added to a lighter mix of patterned ones adds richness and warmth to the bedding.

Essential Elements of Eclectic Style

Creating an eclectic cottage look involves filling your spaces with one-of-a-kind verve—it's all about personal style expressed through variety.

✻ TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS If you love it, chances are it will work in your home, as you are naturally drawn to particular looks and genres that will create visual links from room to room.

✻ GO FOR MULTIPLES Bring together diverse styles and eras—but not just one piece. Create threads of continuity by repeating a theme, such as several midcentury-modern pieces or accents sprinkled throughout.

✻ EDIT COMPOSITIONS Remember that less is more, and you can create a cozy feel without overwhelming the space with clutter.

✻ INCORPORATE RESPITES Create resting places for your eyes by interspersing clean-lined objects and solid colors amid more intricate accents and patterned pieces.

✻ SIMPLIFY THE BACKDROP Avoid pattern on the walls, such as busy wall coverings. Instead, depend on solid-colored paint hues or white beaded board to give spaces that textural charm.

✻ REPEAT COLORS Color can unify disparate pieces, including a mix of fabric patterns. Connect items by repeating color themes.

Be inspired!

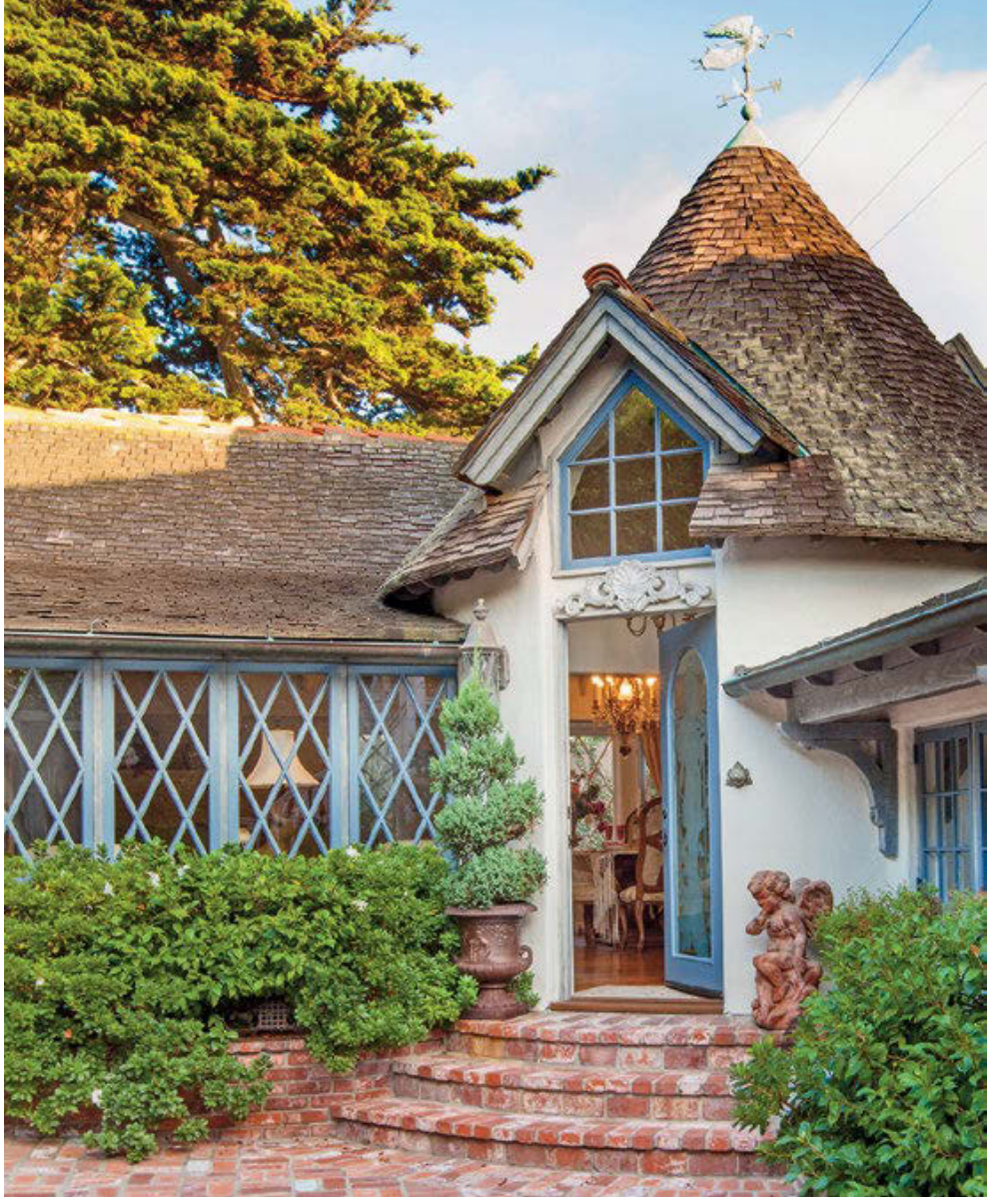
Layered window treatments in the bedroom let you adjust the light from a bit filtered to completely blocked out.



ROMANTIC ESCAPES

Cozy nooks piled high with plush pillows, pastel fabrics softening sink-into furnishings and fresh, fragrant blooms make these storybook settings come to life. At the heart of any daydreamer's abode, though, lies nostalgia. Souvenirs from home and abroad connect rooms to the past, but, reinterpreted in their new home, they also recount an updated story that will be fodder for future memories to be recalled.

PHOTO: JOHN ELLIS





ABOVE Diamond-shaped windowpanes and a turreted roofline mark this Oceanside, California, home as French Normandy style, popular in the 1920s. **RIGHT** Installing panels of outdoor fabric and a simple roof on this slanted pergola means Christina Monterastelli can bring living room comforts to her courtyard.

Once Upon A TIME

...a young girl was captivated by an old picture of a cottage by the sea. Then she grew up and found just that when she spotted this Normandy-style house she calls her "rest of our lives home."

Written by **SANDRA S. SORIA** *Photos by* **JOHN ELLIS** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**



Christina had visited her thatched-roof image of a dream home often, every time she walked into her aunt's house, where the picture hung for decades. "I would stand before this image," she says, "and imagine what it would feel like to live in my dream cottage." When her husband, Albert—also a fan of charming cottages—was planning his retirement, they began looking for their final "forever home" near San Diego, California, in an older neighborhood punctuated by turrets. And there it was, with the diamond-glass panes, flower-lined front walk and all.

Of course, as fairy tales often go, there were a few obstacles along the way. The steeply pitched roof needed support, though that allowed them to raise the rafters for an airier feel. Each window needed to be restored—every diamond-shaped pane individually sanded and painted by hand. Now heavy drapes that darkened the house could be whisked away in favor of sparkling sunshine and views of the surrounding gardens.

The sunlight also revealed some glaring color errors, such as rooms painted in shades of lime green and bright blue that, when



OPPOSITE Delicately walking the rustic and refined balance that is a signature of French château style, Christina decorates her home's simple but charming raftered rooms with romantic Louis XV furniture in calming buttercream colors. **LEFT** For added light and beauty, the Monterastellis hired a Russian glass artist they met at a garden show to craft an etched door. **RIGHT** French porcelain figurines and English china add grace throughout the home. **BELOW** New built-in bookcases turned an auxiliary room into a cozy office for Christina's creative pursuits: interior designer, poet, author.





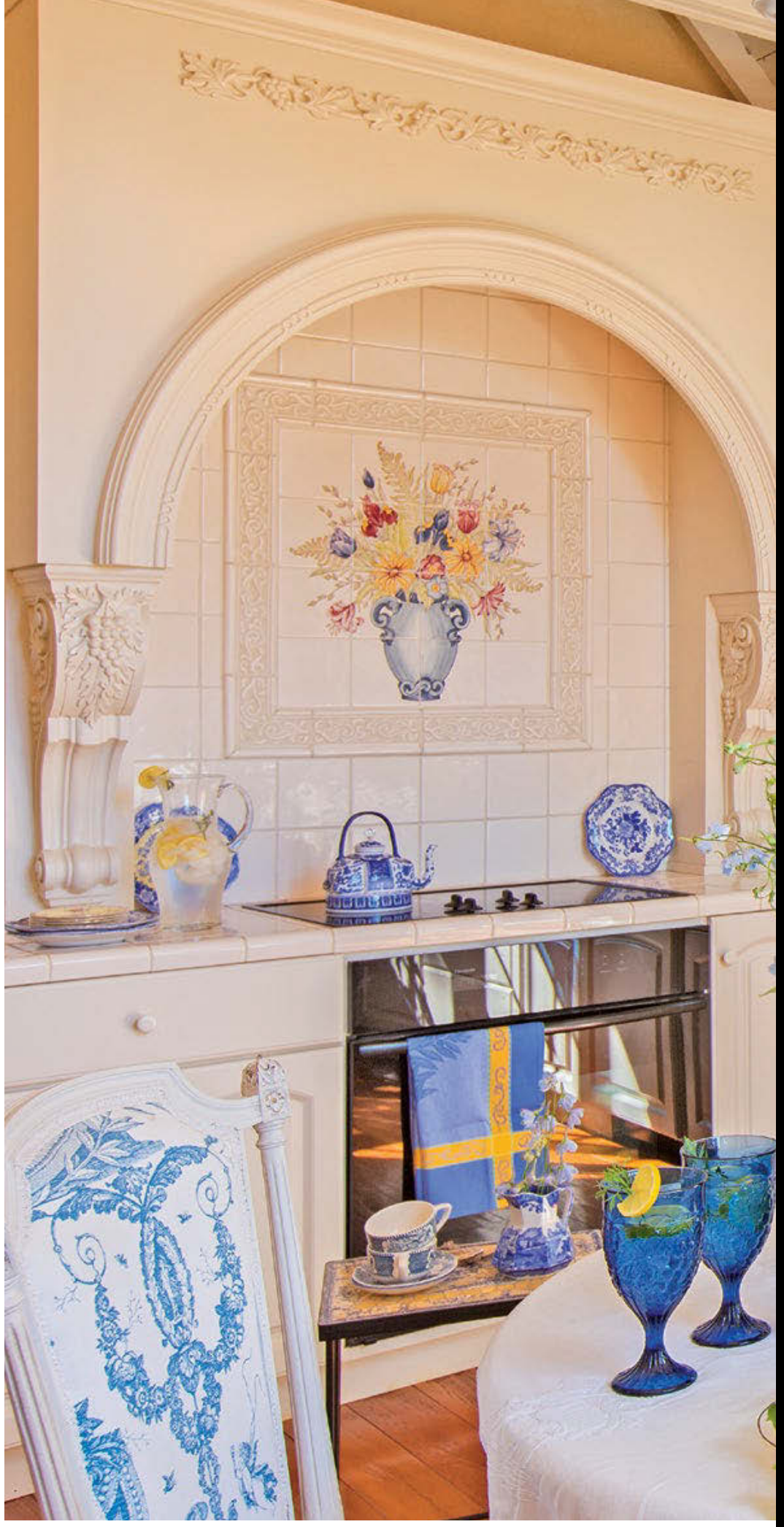


topped with cathedral ceilings and turrets, looked to Christina, an interior designer, "like inverted snow cones." She remedied that with a consistent color palette of pastels that make a soft but not stark backdrop to curved and carved European antique furniture, silky fabrics and delicate accessories.

Garden Inspirations

Christina also tapped her design skills to rework the floor plan without breaking out of the small home's footprint. "We were limited only by the constraints of the rooflines," she says. A small bathroom off of the kitchen became the pantry of a newly remodeled kitchen that is her dream room within a dream home: a sunny eat-in place where most hours are spent. "This blue and white kitchen is a long-awaited dream," Christina says.

And if that isn't the stuff dream homes are made of, consider this: Just outside her spectacular kitchen windows, Christina revels in a "riot of morning glories [that] adorn the fence and flow to the rooftops beyond."





ABOVE By raising the rafters in her renovated kitchen, Christina allowed for a wall of cathedral windows to be seen in all their glory. **ABOVE RIGHT** To visually balance the window wall, Christina created a cooking alcove on the opposite wall that has both architectural strength and delicate charm. **RIGHT** Classic French blue and white accents pair up beautifully with buttery walls.

Essential Elements of **French Normandy Style**

Storybook architecture and charming, inviting rooms are just the beginnings of this elegant, romantic style.

✻ HIGH-PITCHED ROOFS

These allow for soaring vaulted ceilings—perfect for adding instant romance and just a hint of drama. The look mimics the original French-country manors found in the Normandy region, where silos were often attached to the houses.

✻ EASY ELEGANCE

This effect comes from rustic wood floors and exposed-beam rooms, which are painstakingly furnished with delicately carved and painted furniture.

✻ SOFT AND PRETTY

Incorporating the quieter side of colors and patterns—including intricate tapestries and toiles—adds grace to the style but without weighing it down.

✻ GARDEN LIFE

Natural surroundings inspire indoor accents and artwork, while plenty of windows and doors connect the house's interiors to outdoor spaces.



ABOVE The Monterastellis call this "The Venetian Room" because it is the perfect environment to house linens and lace they found while in Venice, Italy. **LEFT** The couple won this antique alabaster, hand-painted furniture at auction. But the master bedroom's true crowning glory is the chandelier—a crystal bowl brimming with porcelain flowers and two bronze ravens "that look like they just dropped in for a visit," says Christina. **BELOW** Posted on the garden gate, this sign sums up this storybook home.



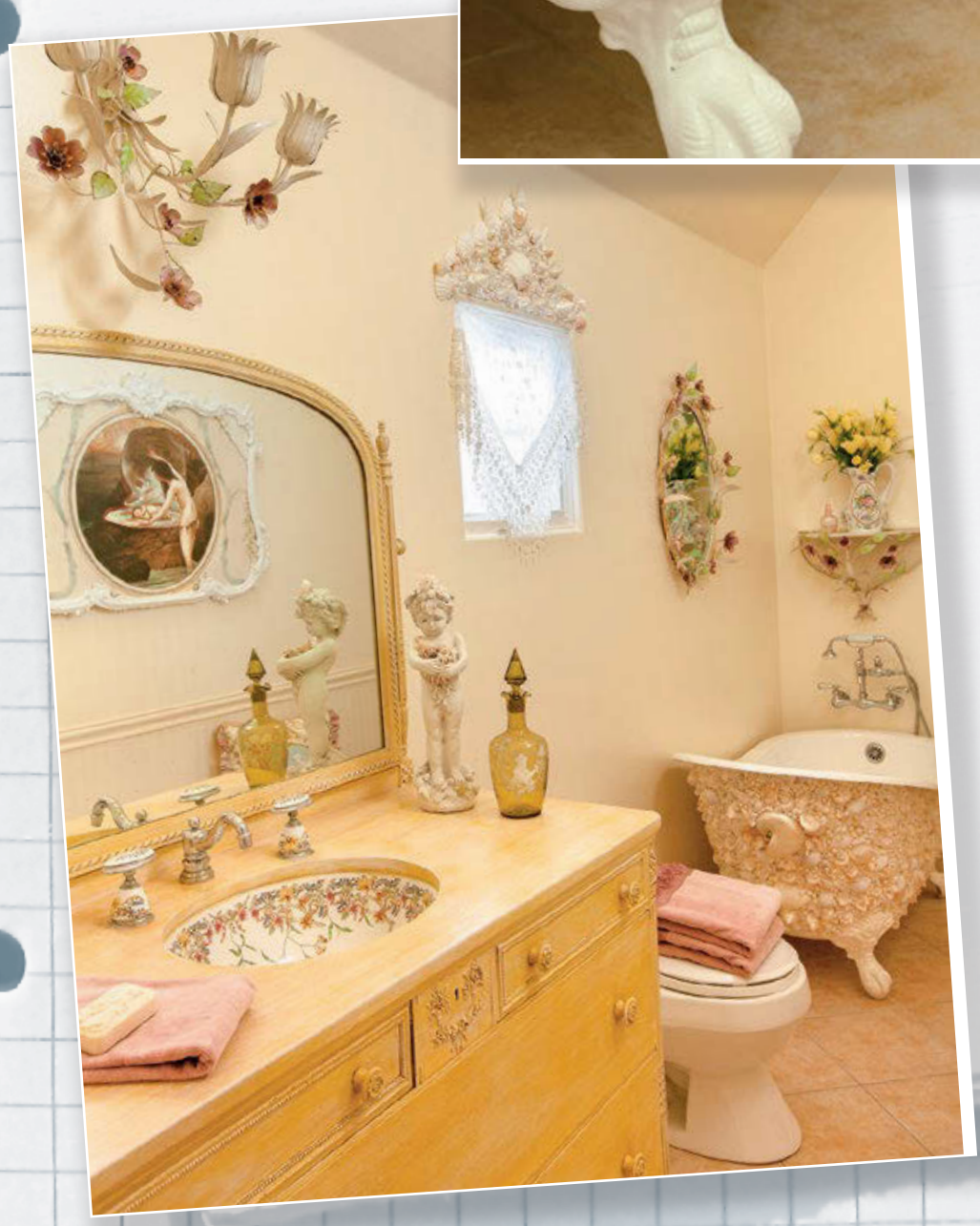
Encrusted Tub

Handcraftsmanship turns a utilitarian space into an artful gallery with signature style.

Artisanal Quality

In this beautiful bath, a 1920s French vanity was customized with a Kohler sink and an antique paint finish by Virginia artist Katherine Kiss. Christina collaborated with California shell artist Sally Stratford to design the incredible shell-encrusted clawfoot tub.





tub how-to

YOU NEED

- Adhesive*
- Variety of shells
- Pearl and crystal accents

* *The type of adhesive you will need will depend on your tub's exterior finish. Waterproof silicone caulking will bond many surfaces, but if it has an acrylic finish, you may need another kind of waterproof epoxy. Consult a local home store and note that any adhesive you use should dry clear.*

TO CREATE

STEP A Purchase shells in desired shapes and color(s). You will want an assortment of sizes to ensure total coverage and a varied texture. Since this will require a lot of shells, buying them helps ensure you get what you want. Online sources to try: *SeashellSupply.com* and *SeashellCity.com*.

STEP B Sort shells into bowls so you can grab what you need as you go. Working in a small area at a time so adhesive stays tacky, begin to cover tub with larger shells. Leave to cure overnight.

STEP C Fill in gaps with medium shells, leave to cure, then cluster smallest shells into gaps and recesses to complete coverage and make finish even. Embellish with pearls and crystals.

Vintage MAKEOVER

Always on the lookout for treasures from the past, this homeowner sells some items but displays favorites throughout her ever-changing home.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **BLACKSTONE EDGE** *Styling by* **DONNA PIZZI**

Above the family room fireplace, an old garden gate paired with a Target wreath of greenery brings in the outdoors. Nearby, old wood crates stack on top of a primitive farm table to create a hutch for display.



In the breakfast area, a $30 thrift shop cabinet became an attractive sideboard with the addition of a hand-sewn skirt and paint. Denise found the chandelier for $100 at an estate sale.

You could say it all began with Duran Duran, but more than likely Denise Biggins's love of English and nostalgic fare started even earlier in life.

"I grew up with '80s British rock; my great-grandparents immigrated from England; and my parents and grandparents had beautiful old things," says Denise, explaining her Anglophile tendencies as well as her hearty appetite for tracking down charming old gems of all kinds.

The Salem, Oregon, home she shares with her husband, Jon, and 14-year-old daughter, Hannah, showcases her affinities. Denise sells some of her finds via antiques shows as well as from a vendor's space located in a local shop, Aunt Bee's House. But many pieces stick around her 8-year-old home, as she delights in imbuing the modern-day spaces with bygone belongings, both primitive and fine.

Homespun Beginnings

To give their newer home character befitting Denise's finds, the couple first switched out all the lackluster builder light fixtures for versions with old-house flair. Next came pistachio green paint on the walls to add a subtle, soothing





ABOVE A pair of crib mattresses wrapped in batting and new upholstery refresh the painted vintage sofa. A 1920s steel Simmons dresser from the Oregon State Hospital is a focal point piece. On the wall, an old window frame bears a crest for English style. **BELOW LEFT** Subtle, elegant vignettes let special pieces like this charming cherub stand out. **BELOW** A Pottery Barn chandelier provides dramatic lighting above a World Market table, which comfortably seats eight—and then some. The 1960s white-painted hutch was one of Denise's first projects.





family photo wall how-to

TO CREATE

USE painter's tape to hang a stairway's-length of craft paper at the same angle as the banister. Mark a line down paper at beginning and end of stairway and then take it down.

LAY paper on floor and work to fill in the space using pictures and artwork. When satisfied with the arrangement, trace around each piece. Inside each outline, mark where that piece's hanging hardware is to create a nail guide, then number the outline, placing a piece of painter's tape on the photo or art with the same number.

HANG paper back on wall and use nail guides to install hangers. Hang pieces according to number, taking down paper as you go until the wall is filled in.





ABOVE Creams and aquas punctuated with touches of rattan create a beach getaway feel in the master bedroom. Denise sewed the bedskirt and the panels for the crown-style canopy. **LEFT** Family photos transform the staircase wall into a sentimental gallery. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** Maps thumbtacked to the wall continue the travel theme in the office. Denise made the hanging shelves from wood boards and rope.

backdrop that connects with the greenery outdoors. Denise also sews everything from decorative pillows to table runners to window treatments to add homespun, custom flair. She exercises her painting talents on furnishings and even writes about some projects on her blog, Pink Postcard (*Pink-Postcard.com*).

A Flexible Future

While many goodies come and go, a few pieces stay put, such as the white china hutch in the dining room—one of Denise's first attempts at boosting charm with paint.

"It was a 1960s speckled brown Broyhill," she recalls, "and I painted it with white chalk paint and an aqua interior. It has metal lattice panels in the doors and lion head pulls for a British feel—I just love it."

At least for now.

"I'm in a trade-up mentality," Denise says. "There is so much history and beauty out there to discover. As long as a piece isn't sentimental, I have no problem selling it and rotating in something new and wonderful."

Memorabilia from Hawaii—including a 1963 United Airlines travel brochure on the Pottery Barn picket fence wall hanging—give the office a fun vibe. The poster of fabled 1920s surfer Tom Blake came from *AllPosters.com*.

Essential Elements of **Vintage Style**

The world's your oyster when you periodically change out furnishings and accents.

✻ START IN NEUTRAL

For traditional cottage appeal, start with white walls and ceilings. You also can bring the outdoors in by painting walls in spring greens, watery blues or sandy beiges. Each option lets you alter accent hues and accessories without a lot of fuss.

✻ LIGHT THE WAY

Keep your style out of the shadows with ample lighting, and use the opportunity to instill architectural appeal with vintage-style fixtures.

✻ ROTATE AND REFRESH

With backdrops offering flexibility, you have the freedom to bring in new vintage discoveries. Simply pack away the old for another day—or, better still, sell pieces to finance future treasure hunts.




Est. 1926
Cantonaise Et
Mandarin
Ceylan
Aromatisés
Divine

OPPOSITE Gothic windows frame the forested view from the window seat.
ABOVE White trim borders windows set into an alcove lined with blue-tinged wainscoting. A farmhouse table, French-country chairs and a new vintage-look chandelier from Something Simple (in Eureka Springs) dress the dining area.

Southern CHARM

Like a fairy tale, this mountain cottage promises placid views, sunlit interiors and happily ever after.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **MARK LOHMAN** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**

It's not unusual to bring vacation memories and souvenirs home, but Iowans Cathy and Jeff Collins instead transformed one of their favorite getaways into home-away-from-home. They couldn't resist, really. Long passionate about old homes, the couple was completely smitten by the enchanting historic Victorians dotting the hills of Eureka Springs, Arkansas—a resort destination in the Ozark Mountains burgeoning with nostalgia and mineral springs that flow from mountainsides.

One 1900 farmhouse charmer in particular captured their hearts—a place locally known as Rose Cottage and hidden away on one of the many steep, winding streets and pathways above downtown, close to shopping and dining yet secluded amid the trees.

Making Magic

"It was just magic to me, with its Gothic windows and a wonderful front porch and beautiful view," Cathy recalls. "It's so picturesque." It took some negotiating, but the couple eventually bought the house—contents and all—and set about making it their own.

The architectural features, of course, were







keepers, including turquoise-and-green-tinged weathered wood floors and wainscoting, but so were some of the foundational furnishings, plus charming ironstone and china pieces.

"The bones were so beautiful," Cathy says. "I just wanted to clean it up and make it fresh and very tranquil."

Finding Peace in Simplicity

That meant brightening pink-tinged window trim with fresh coats of white and clearing away excess belongings to create a feel that's airy and uncluttered.

"A person's style evolves over the years,"

LEFT Spare furnishings in the kitchen emphasize architecture and views—as well as the gorgeous original console sink—while retaining an air of tranquility. Black chairs provide a pop of dark color paired with the white wicker table. **ABOVE** Stoneware peacefully resides with fine china in the dining room's vintage Hoosier cabinet. **RIGHT** Homeowner Cathy Collins loves the simple utilitarian beauty of stoneware pitchers, such as this one on the dining room table.





ABOVE Architecture and decorative accents in the foyer foreshadow the elegance and cottage charm to come. **ABOVE RIGHT** Want to experience Rose Cottage for yourself? Cathy and Jeff Collins rent their cottage to guests. Visit *EurekaRoseCottage.com* to book a stay. **OPPOSITE** Clearing out a mattress on the floor in this attic space made way for a diminutive writing table and chair—a spot to relish nature and quietude.

Cathy says. "I used to love a country look, where every surface was covered with things. But now I appreciate simplicity."

Keeping it simple included replacing mismatched dining room chairs with shapely French-country versions and adding a new vintage-style chandelier. "I love juxtaposing rustic and finer things," Cathy says. Another case in point: A foam green Hoosier cabinet displays a nicely edited collection of hardy antique ironstone and delicate china.

A Treetop Escape

Creating spots to enjoy views was another priority. Cathy plumped the dining room window seat with comfy pillows and furnished a windowed corner in the kitchen as an intimate spot for coffee. A lone Gothic window tucked under the eaves became an attic aerie for pondering the treetops.

Fabrics accentuate the natural setting too, with floral patterns sprinkled about. Sweet wisps of lace on some windows preserve architectural beauty, light and views while casting pretty patterns of filtered sunlight onto weathered floorboards.

"I love preserving pieces of the past," Cathy says. "They all have a story to tell us, and this cottage provides a perfect place to listen."

Essential Elements of **Victorian Style**

Recreate the romance of a Victorian cottage by including these must-haves in your rooms.

✻ EMPHASIZE ARCHITECTURE
If your home has Victorian architecture, don't allow furnishings and accessories to compete with it. Do that by editing down furnishings to just the essentials, keeping clutter to a minimum and using white or subtle color as a backdrop.

✻ BRING IN PERIOD PIECES
Like homeowner Cathy Collins, depend on a few inspirational period pieces to highlight the style, such as a vintage cabinet or antique sink.

✻ MIX FINE WITH ROUGH
Juxtapose finer objects with primitive ones: This home's farmhouse table—with its worn painted legs—alongside an ornate chandelier and chic French chairs, for example, shows off this effective decorating approach.

✻ MINIMIZE WINDOW TREATMENTS
Bring the outdoors in and emphasize tall or shapely windows with minimal window treatments—or none at all. In some cases, Cathy used only wisps of lace.

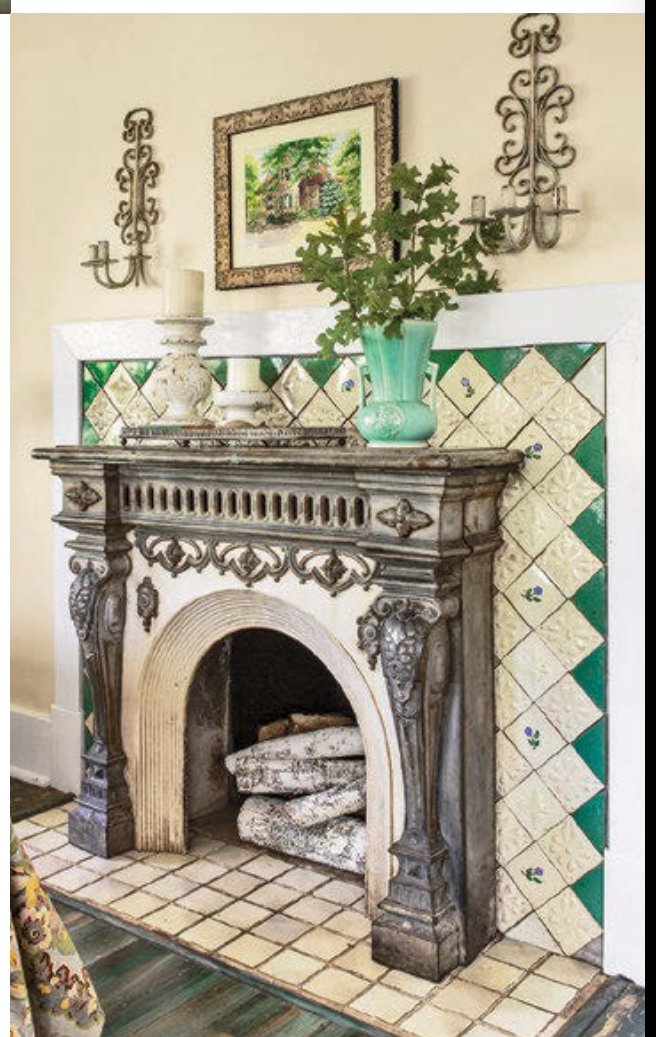
"I love preserving pieces of the past. They all have a story to tell."



LEFT A wide Gothic window serves as a kind of grand architectural headboard for the master bedroom's king-size bed, allowing the greens of the outdoors to become part of the bed ensemble. Floral Pottery Barn linens echo the setting as well as the weathered shades of blue from the wooden walls and floors. A chandelier from Something Simple adds elegance. **BOTTOM LEFT** Gracefully arched French doors swing wide open into the master bedroom to let breezes waft in and to provide access to the wraparound porch. **BOTTOM CENTER** Fresh hydrangeas in a simple, clear glass vase reaffirm the soft blues and greens in the worn hues of the wallboards. **BOTTOM RIGHT** The dramatically ornate metal fireplace mantel is original to the home and surrounded by cream and turquoise tiles.







Verdigris Painted Floor



Be inspired!
To give instant character to a new home, look for reclaimed wood to lay on floors and clad walls and door frames.

Feeling Blue?

Blues and greens painted across the breadth of the home's abundant wood floors set the interiors on a variegated sea of color. Although these boards were reclaimed, the weathered, one-of-a-kind look is something you can recreate.

floor how-to

YOU NEED

- 150-grit sandpaper or buffer
- Vacuum
- Floor paint, rag
- Narrow and wide rollers
- Floor sealant

TO CREATE

STEP A Assuming you're covering a previously finished wood floor, first determine whether the finish is oil- or latex-based, as your paint type will need to match to ensure adhesion. Purchase paint in dark and light jade tones plus white, for mixing to adjust tint.

STEP B For a large room, rent a buffer from a home center or use sandpaper to rough up entire surface. Work a small width at a time with the direction of the wood and, when the whole floor is done, vacuum carefully, being sure to get into corners and edges.

STEP C Mix lighter shade of jade with white and apply a light coat roughly over floor using large roller. This base doesn't have to be perfectly even. When it's dry, use a narrow roller or brush to apply a darker tint along selected boards, working with a rag to remove paint as you go for a random, layered look. Apply the darkest hue in the same fashion. When dry, roll on coat of floor sealant.



WATERSIDE CALM

There's nothing like spending an afternoon at the ocean or taking in the sunset on a lake to make you feel like you're really *away*. Water's unique quality to be both exhilarating and meditative is naturally reflected in the homes that border it. Think jaunty, nautical accents paired with crisp whites; blues in every tone, from deep sea to pale sky; and beachcombed riches that connect you to the maritime world.

PHOTO: MARK LOHMAN

Nesting NANTUCKET Style

With primary living spaces on the second floor, this near-the-beach house ensures views, sunlight and smiles.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **MARK LOHMAN** *Styling by* **FIFI O'NEILL**



OPPOSITE A copper folk art whale, which the couple playfully refers to as Horatio Hornblower, keeps watch over the living room, calmed with fresh whites. A seagrass rug serves as a textural anchor for the seating area, which is rounded out with a vintage rocker found at an estate sale. **RIGHT** A wicker stand on the porch holds glass fishing floats for nautical flair.

Island vacations are all about enjoying the great outdoors, so Mary Jane and Bruce Macklin knew they had a winner when they spotted this newer Shingle-style cottage in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

"It has all the primary living spaces on the second floor, so you have a bit of an ocean view," Bruce says. "Plus," he continues, "it's just a short 400-yard jaunt down a dirt road to one of the nicest beaches on the island."

Mary Jane particularly fell for the big wraparound porch, a wonderful place to relax and take in the surroundings. So, the couple snapped up the house, and Mary Jane refreshed the interiors with charming Nantucket flair.

Collected Style

"I just wanted the spaces to feel airy and inviting and have the house fit the location," she says. "My sister-in-law, Meredith, lives on the island, so she helped me make good choices to get the look."

Mary Jane reveals that she even "shopped" in her sister-in-law's basement to find accessories, such as blue-and-white delft china, befitting the style and colors she had envisioned for the





cottage. White-painted and white-slipcovered furnishings help create a neutral backdrop and also brighten the interiors.

"You can take the slipcovers off and toss them in the wash with some bleach," says Mary Jane, "and they come out so fresh and crisp." Punctuating the breezy whites, vintage and new furnishings and accents—many wicker or wood—provide a warm contrast.

Finding Inspiration

"Auctions on the island are so fun. I love mixing old and new," Mary Jane notes, "but my passion is the older stuff. It seems such a waste to buy something new when there is something already out there with wonderful old character."

Many of the pieces Mary Jane collects have a nautical vibe that visually connects the house to its proximity to the beach. In addition, Mary Jane used accent color to emphasize the seaside setting.

"We bought a painting by David Lazarus, a popular Nantucket artist," she explains. "I pulled the blues and greens from there—even some pinks."

Living a Fantasy

Fabrics and accessories made it easy to sprinkle the accent hues throughout the house, and they complete the charming getaway, which the couple can hardly wait to visit during summer and fall.

"It is such a special place that I feel like I'm in a movie," Mary Jane says. "It's not an easy place to leave."

OPPOSITE The couple loved the kitchen's ocean view and the fact that no remodeling was needed—only a few appliance updates. Granite countertops provide practical beauty.
ABOVE A painting by local artist David Lazarus inspired the blues and greens used throughout the house. Sliders provide access to one of the upper-level decks with a gorgeous view.
RIGHT The upper story of the Macklin cottage harbors living spaces and the master bedroom. Downstairs are three more bedrooms and a den. To find out how you can enjoy a stay here, contact Mary Taaffe, *WindwalkerRealEstate.com*.





Essential Elements of **Nantucket Style**

Bring a bit of New England home by inviting in this easy-does-it decor.

✻ REFRESH WITH BREEZY WHITES

Create an air of crispness with white walls, white-painted furnishings and slipcovers in... you guessed it: white.

✻ BORROW SHADES FROM OUTSIDE

Let the beach inspire your color palette with blue and green touches paired with seagrass rugs for textural sandy hues.

✻ GROUND THE NEW WITH THE OLD

Vintage pieces lend charm when merged with new finds. Shop secondhand stores, garage sales, auctions and flea markets for bargain items with classic character.

✻ KEEP IT SIMPLE

Less is more, so make your point with a few ocean-themed motifs, accessories and artwork without overdoing it.

LEFT Dining area blues repeat from the still life painting, which came with the house. **BOTTOM LEFT** Wicker chairs on the porch welcome visitors. **BELOW** Tucked under the eaves, the master bedroom features a bed from Ballard Designs. The vintage wood trunk came with the house and romantically bears the initials of an owner from bygone days.





Maritime Mood-Makers

There's no water required for your home to reflect the tranquil charms of the sea. Set sail with nautical style.





Ships Ahoy

ABOVE This Sailboat Racer Model, a replica of the legendary 1901 yacht racer Columbia, is crafted entirely by hand and features antique brass hardware. *williams-sonoma.com*

Beachy Keen

ABOVE Set the scene for seaside romance with this Scallop Shell Bowl, cast from an original mold by Scottish artist Richard Taylor. The piece is available online only: *potterybarn.com*.





Whale Watching

ABOVE Set a maritime mood with this whimsical navy and white Wool Hooked Throw Pillow (it also comes in red with a black whale). It has a removable cover with a 100%-wool front and a cotton backing. *llbean.com*

All Feet on Deck

LEFT Offering the perfect welcoming touch to your beach cottage, the charming Anchor Floor Mat is practical, too, cleaning off sandy feet in a snap. It can be used indoors or out. *westelm.com*

CHEERFUL *Charisma*

Juicy hues make this small waterside home a family's tropical getaway.

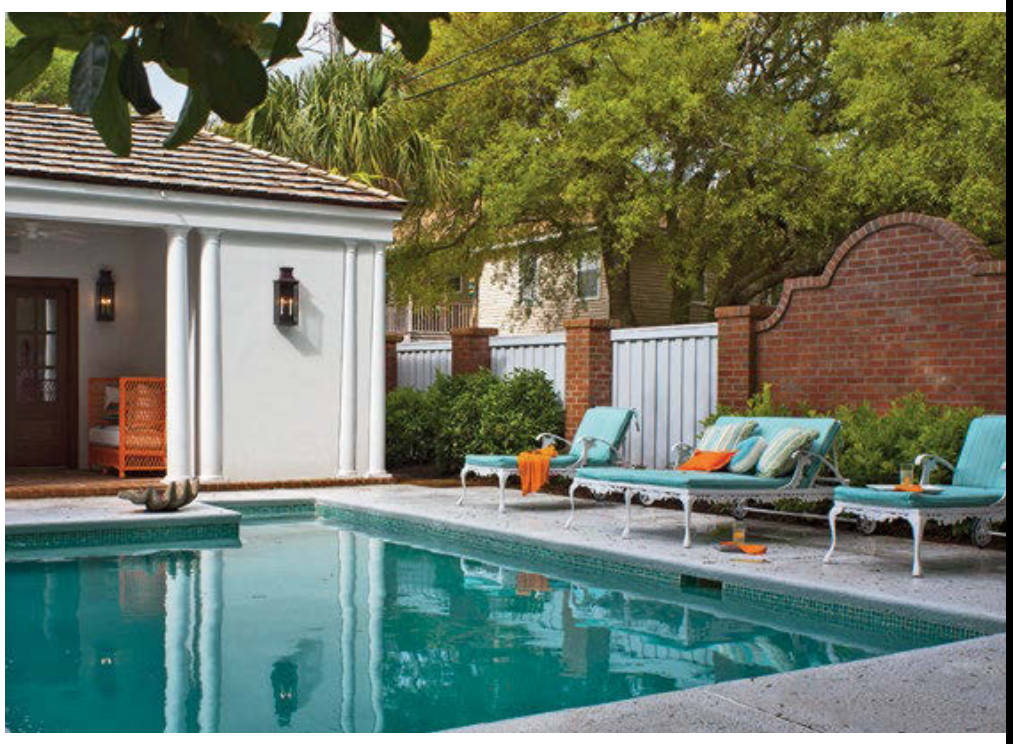
Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER**
Photos by **RICHARD LEO JOHNSON**
Styling by **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**

OPPOSITE A rainbow of towels, each displaying a family member's name, hangs from pegs in the pool house bathroom. Pops of orange brighten the mirror frame, cabinet knobs and rug on the existing brick floor. **THIS PHOTO** With so many people in the house, interior designer Elizabeth Smith Pipe ensured an abundance of seating, including this spot at the top of the stairs. The designer repeated an "x" detail, seen in the stair railing, as a motif throughout the house. **BELOW** Not surprisingly, the pool is a main attraction. Pipe refreshed existing chairs around the pool deck with paint.

It really isn't the size of a house that welcomes a crowd but a huge heart for hospitality. This 1930s cottage on St. Simons Island, Georgia, for example, offers modest square footage but big thinking in terms of color and inviting spaces, which is why it draws a couple with three college-age children and their friends like kids to a card trick.

But it's not all smoke and mirrors. Instead, it's interior designer Elizabeth Smith Pipe of Elizabeth M. Smith Interiors who has a few design tricks up her sleeve.

"This is a small, older cottage with some





chopped-up interiors and low ceilings," she says. "My husband, Richard Pipe, served as contractor, and we removed walls to open up the main living and dining areas to the kitchen, then painted almost everything white—including the ceilings."

But not just any white will do.

Playing with Light

"The trick is to start with a truly pure white," notes Pipe, "because you don't want it leaning toward gray or blue. Then I chose a high-gloss lacquer sheen that reflects light and bounces it everywhere—almost like a mirror. This gives the house a very clean, spacious feel that belies its actual size."

Color Charisma

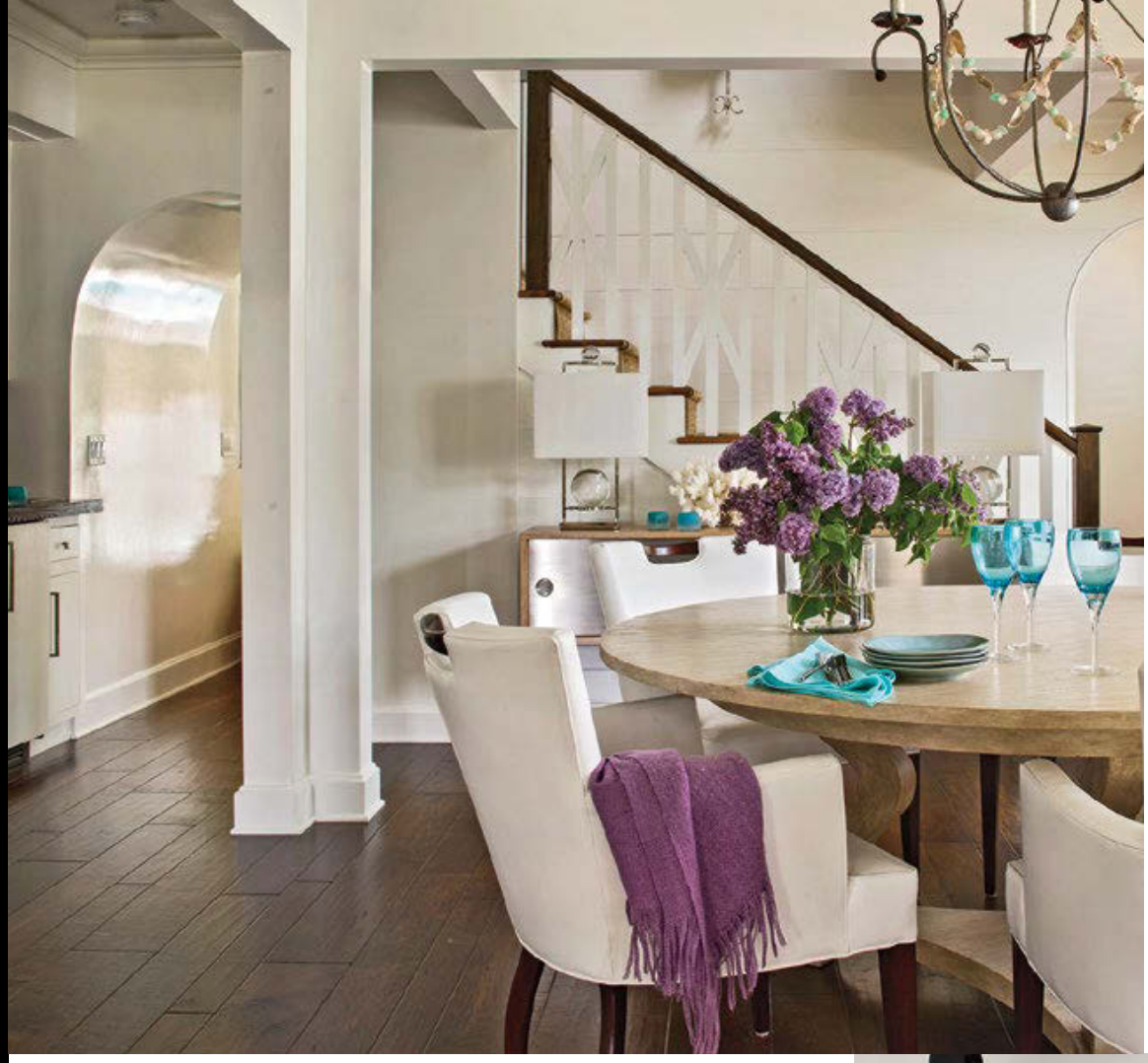
The white also created a refreshing, clean backdrop that was perfect for adding bold dashes of the homeowner's favorite colors—orange and turquoise. Those hues also were chosen "because she wanted this cottage to feel happy," says Pipe, who deftly deployed the cheerful shades throughout the house as prudent but playful additions in the form of







ABOVE Hand-painted pillows and a throw in soft blue and chartreuse create an air of tranquility in the living room. A handmade hooked rug provides cozy texture, while nailhead trim lends style to the Hickory Chair club chairs.
TOP RIGHT In one guest bedroom, a Karen Robinson mirror with a blue seashell frame hangs above a dresser to invite calming ocean color. **RIGHT** Pure white, achieved with white cabinetry and Carrara marble, lightens and brightens the kitchen. An "x" detail repeats in a few of the upper cabinets.

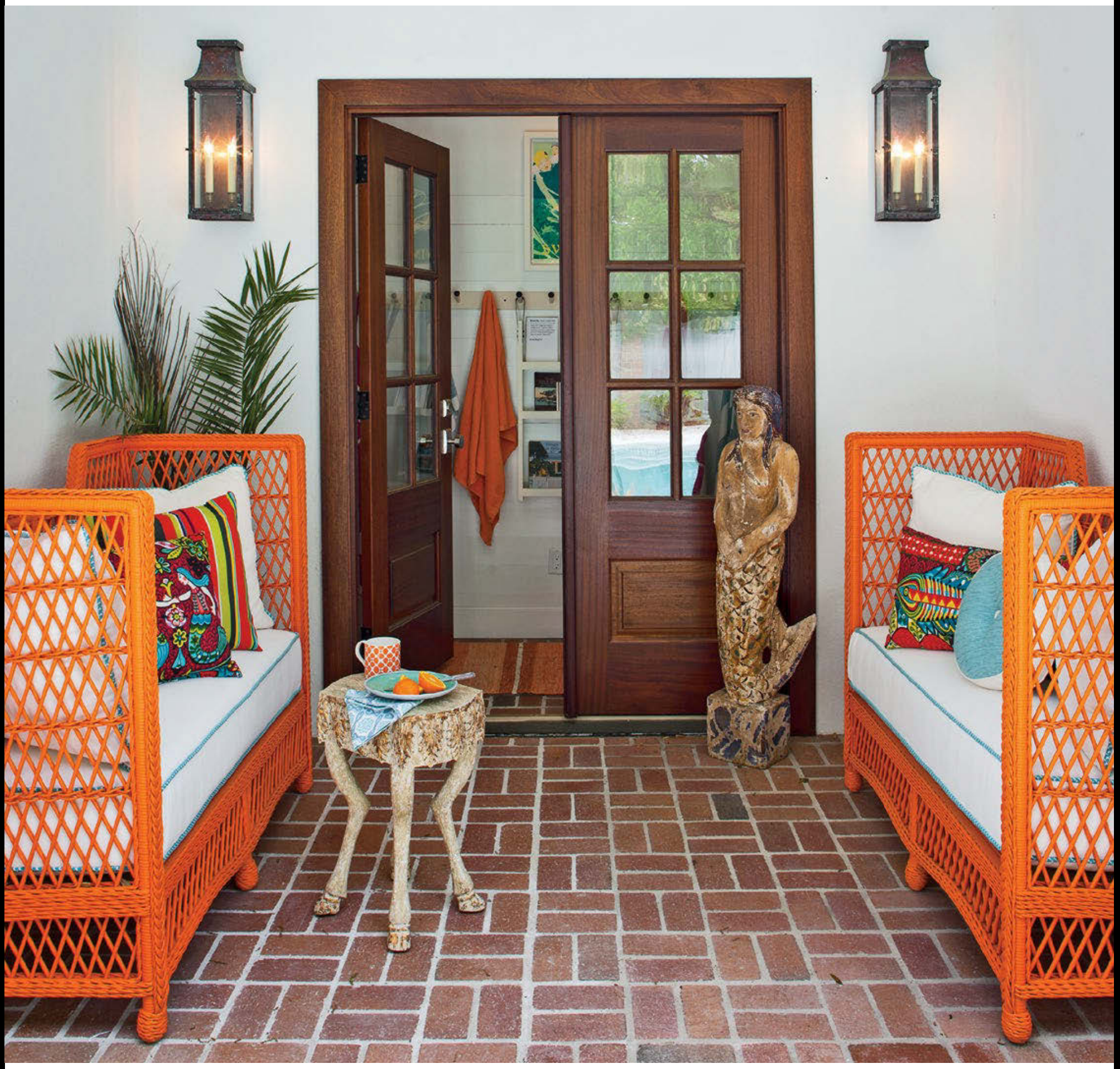




TOP LEFT A support column signals where walls once divided the dining room from the rest of the house. Faux leather-covered chairs surround the custom-made table. **TOP RIGHT** The outdoor shower near the pool house sports splashes of color via pillows covered in outdoor fabrics. Shelves provide a spot for towels or a change of clothes. **RIGHT** Furnished with a foldout couch, the den doubles as a guest room. Faux leather and outdoor fabrics stand up to wet bathing suits. **BELOW** A porcelain sea urchin and blown-glass spheres in orange make a subtle palette contribution in the den. **OPPOSITE** The cottage's namesake mermaid stands watch at the pool house entry. Existing benches got a fresh start with orange paint.







Essential Elements of **Tropical Style**

Imbuing a home with a cheerful spirit is all about embracing sunlight and bold, radiant colors.

✻ START WITH PURE WHITE

Freshen walls and the ceiling with the purest white you can find to brighten and expand interiors. Whites that lean toward gray are dingy; blue tinges may not work with your color palette. For a home's principal backdrop, it's worth the trouble to test a few different options before committing to the best.

✻ REPEAT ACCENT COLORS

Select a few of your favorite colors to create a palette. Repeat variations of hues from room to room for color continuity. Use paint, fabrics and accessories, but keep in mind these are accents, so don't overdo.

✻ TAKE BREAKS

Incorporate resting places for your eyes (and body) by shifting to quieter tones in some spaces, especially bedrooms and baths.

✻ ADD WARM NOTES

When an interior features an abundance of white, be sure to include elements for visual warmth, such as browns, stained-wood surfaces and natural textures, like seagrass rugs and linen fabrics.

Be inspired!

Repeat themes throughout a home for unity. Here, the "x" pattern on the bunk also is found on the main stair railing and in the kitchen.



OPPOSITE Custom-built full-size bunk beds in the pool house ensure plenty of sleeping places for guests who might want to stay the night. **ABOVE** In this guest bedroom, the entire wall beneath the sloped ceiling is upholstered in a blue-and-brown motif to serve as a comfy yet stylish headboard. **BELOW, LEFT AND RIGHT** Carrara marble and white cabinetry create an elegant, spa-like atmosphere in the master bathroom. A hint of the sea manifests as an embroidered starfish on a hand towel.

paint, cabinet knobs, rugs, towels, decorative accessories and fabrics.

But fabrics in the house don't only promote lively color and style—they're practical, too, as Pipe used only water-resistant faux leathers and outdoor fabrics inside.

"This cottage is right across from the Atlantic Ocean," she explains. "So the homeowners wanted people to be able to sit anywhere they wanted in wet bathing suits."

Numerous places to relax—as well as sleep—are scattered about the house, with seating tucked here and there (including at the top of a staircase) and a smattering of beds, so guests can spend the night.

Sandcastle Dreams

With all this activity and the plethora of vivid color used to enliven the home's more active spaces, the living room and some of the bedrooms take on more tranquil touches of sky blue, drawn from a placid landscape painting above the fireplace mantel—perfect for this little cottage by the sea.

"Really, this home, with its joyful colors, is perfect for this family," Pipe says. "They just seem to create happiness wherever they go. The homeowner now calls this place her little Mermaid Sandcastle," she continues, "after a statue that stayed with the house. Pretty fitting for such a magical place."





Fabrics in the house don't only promote lively color and style—they're practical, too.





pillow how-to

YOU NEED

- Unpatterned cotton pillowcase
- Pillow form to match
- Iron-on transfer paper
- Color printer
- Iron

TO CREATE

STEP A Wash, dry and press the pillowcase. On your computer, take a message you like and play with it in different font faces, colors and sizes until you come up with a pleasing design. Save it and use a photo application to flip it so that words are backward. Print on transfer paper.

STEP B Follow manufacturer's instructions to transfer face-down image to face-up pillow. You may need to slip a plain piece of paper inside pillowcase to prevent fabric sides from sticking together from transfer.

STEP C Let the pillowcase cool completely and then stuff with the form.

LEFT A seashell chandelier and fabrics bring cheerful pops of orange to this petite bedroom. Linen-upholstered head and footboards and a seagrass rug add eye-pleasing texture.
ABOVE Color and slogans lend a playful spirit to accent pillows scattered throughout the house.


I WISH I WERE A MAN
LL JOIN The NAVY
BE A MAN AND DO IT
UNITED STATES NAVY
RECRUITING STATION
nate silver
the signal and the noise
Lautz Bros & Co's
"Acme"
20,22,24,26,28,30,32,34,36,38,40
BUFFALO, N.Y.
THE CABIN

Uncommon CABIN

Nostalgia is par for the course at this sunny cabin, once home to golf caddies.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **GRIDLEY+GRAVES**

Handmade items and unexpected pairings boost interest throughout the house, including in the living room, where a primitive wood crate stands on a contemporary base from *HairPinLegs.com*.



A slightly uncommon cabin with a story to tell captured the hearts of Nicole Ray and her husband, Sam Wotring. Like the humorous narrative artwork Nicole creates and sells, the southeastern Michigan cabin may initially raise an eyebrow, but then smiles prevail. The rustic woodsy interior long ago received a makeover in white paint; that courageous ploy by a previous owner forever refreshed the look of natural wood logs and banished gloom by amplifying sunlight.

"We had heard this cabin was for sale right on the lake," Nicole recalls. "We peeked through the windows and just fell in love with the totally rustic look but the unexpected brightness of the white-painted logs."

The Rest is History

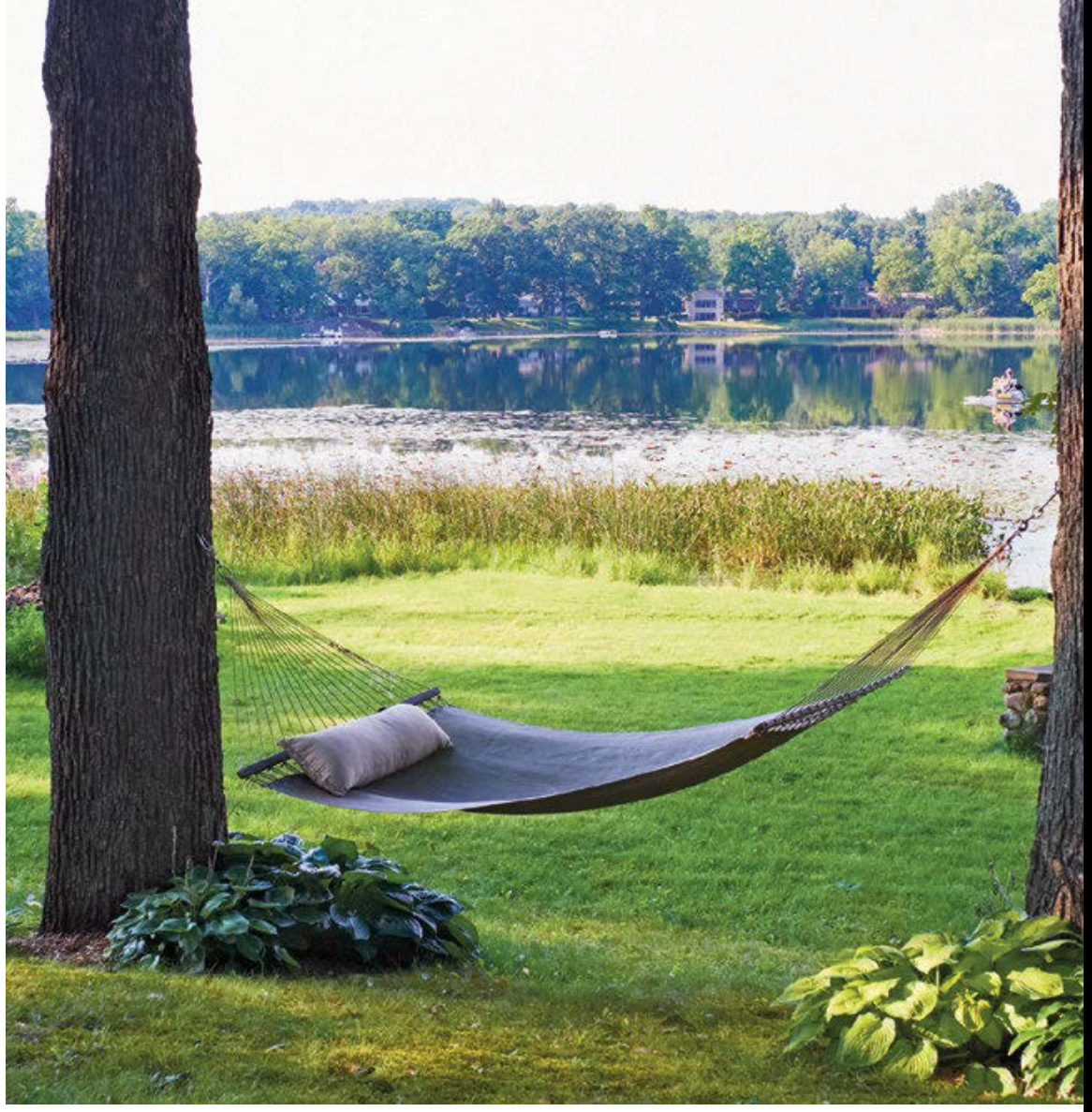
The couple also relished the fact that the 1921 lodge once housed caddies working at the golf course nearby. "I just love nostalgia and things with a story to tell because that makes me feel connected to it," Nicole says.

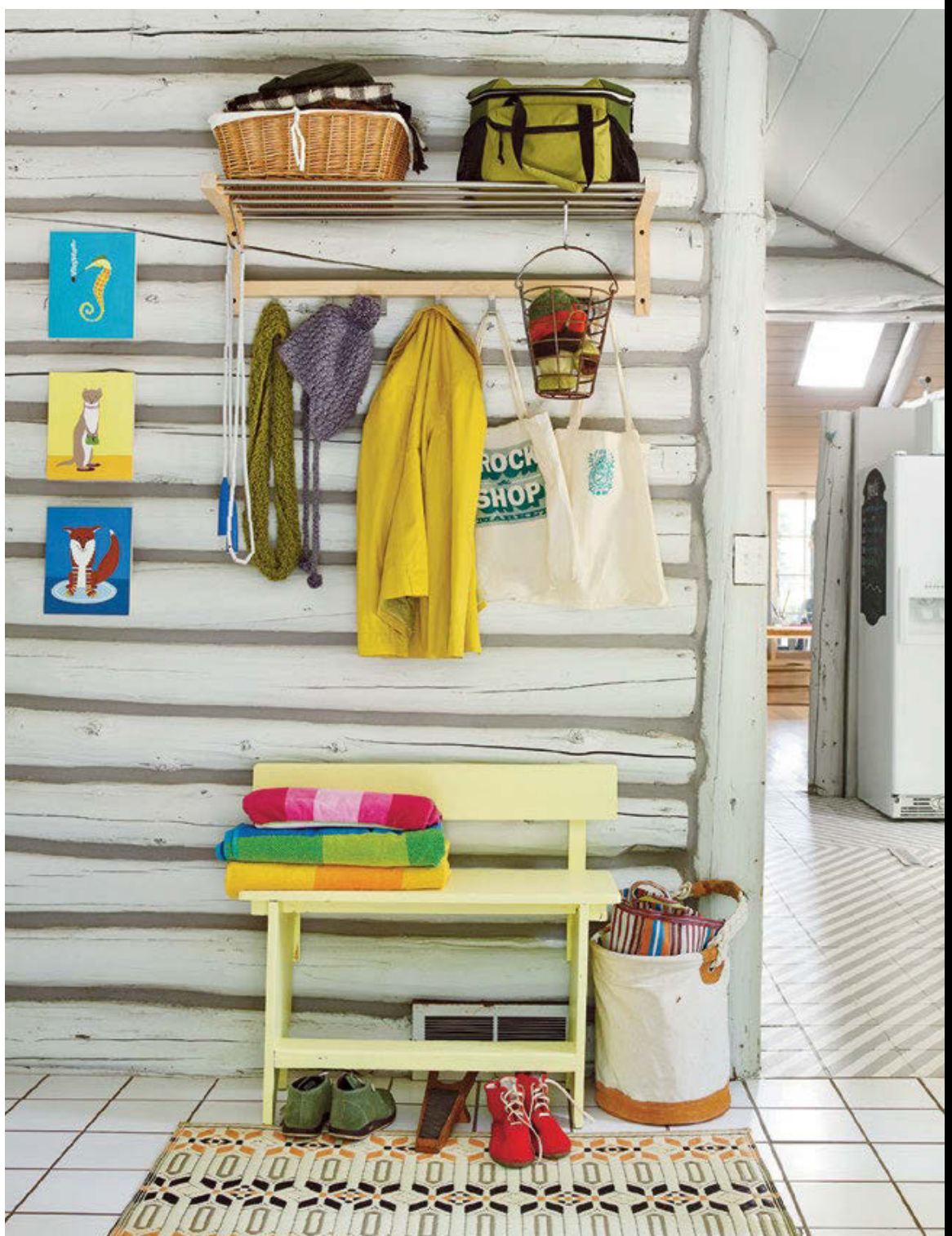
Indeed, every room holds treasures recalling beloved people and places: a drafting table, for example, that was Sam's dad's; a fishing net belonging to Nicole's father; and a red and white lobster print purchased on vacation.

Treasure Hunting

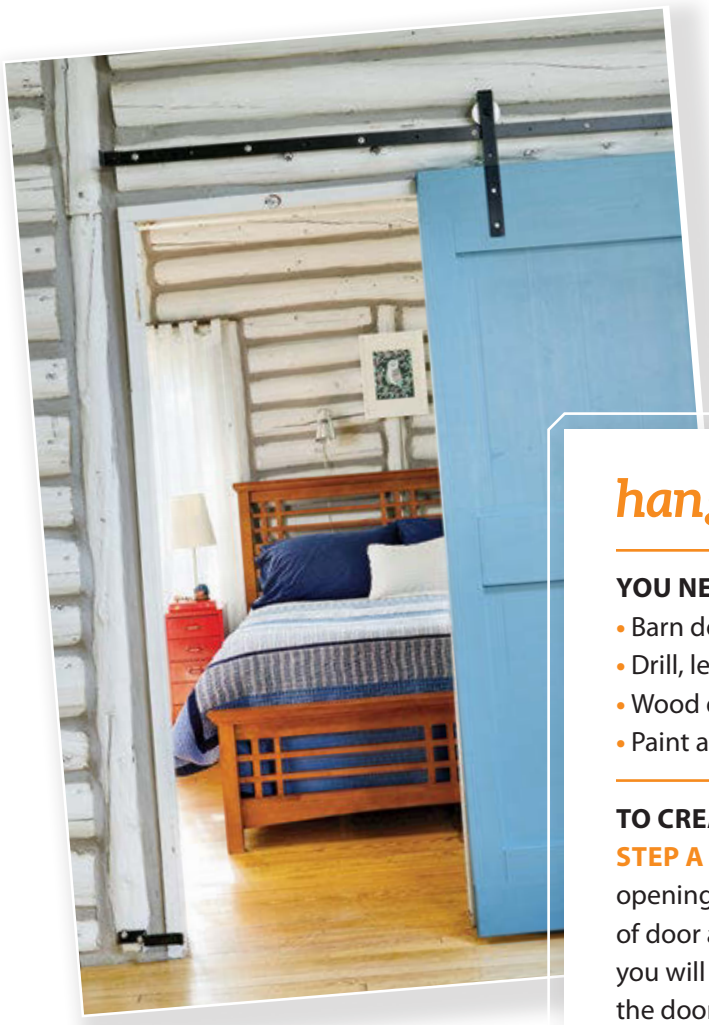
As an artist, Nicole is drawn to handcrafted items. She often totes home loot from art and craft shows or orders special finds on *Etsy.com*. On the living room floor, a red rug composed of recycled T-shirts provides a foundation for the couple's artful, freewheeling style, which Nicole credits to serendipity.

"We have eclectic tastes, and we just buy what we love and it all works together," she





OPPOSITE Ikea stools provide clean-lined seating at the vintage drafting table—a family piece. **TOP RIGHT** "One of the best spots on the property," Nicole says of this hammock, which is suspended from two trees close to the lake. **RIGHT** A lemon-yellow vintage bench combines with an Ikea shelf unit to make a quaint yet practical drop zone just inside the entryway. Nicole painted the three pieces of artwork. See more of her creations at *NicoleRay.com* and on *Etsy.com* (search "Sloeginfizz").



ABOVE Sam built the barn door to replace a traditional swinging door for the master bedroom. Benjamin Moore's *New Born's Eyes (1663)* makes the door and the nearby bench "significant without being too bold," Nicole says. Local artists and family members made all the artwork. **OPPOSITE** A contemporary dining table from Ikea is surrounded by an eclectic collection of chairs, including rustic ladderbacks. "I definitely lean toward not matching things," Nicole says. "I want comfortable, relaxed and fun. My motto is, 'If you love it, it all works together somehow.'"

hanging barn doors how-to

YOU NEED

- Barn door roller kit
- Drill, level, ladder
- Wood door
- Paint and brush

TO CREATE

STEP A Measure the doorway opening to settle on the size of door and width of kit that you will buy. Remember that the door will hang outside the frame at the top and sides and will need about an inch of clearance at the bottom so it doesn't graze the floor as it opens and closes.

STEP B Paint the door you wish to use and leave to dry. Meanwhile, install the roller rail over the door frame according to the size of the door and the length of the barn door hardware.

STEP C Attach hardware to door, install side stoppers and hang door on track.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Barn door roller kits are available at home improvement centers and will fit standard door widths up to about 36". If your opening is wider, plan to hang two side-by-side rails.
- While this application is for a doorway, you can adapt the idea and use a kit to hang a sliding cover that will hide unsightly electronics in the living area or bedroom.

"I definitely lean toward not matching things. I want comfortable, relaxed and fun."



"We had heard this cabin was for sale. We peeked through the windows and fell in love with the totally rustic look."

Artwork by Nicole in the guest bedroom whimsically depicts toy goldfish.



notes. “The sofas look like they were made to go together,” Nicole continues, “but one was Sam’s and one was mine, and when we got married they just worked.” And so it goes.

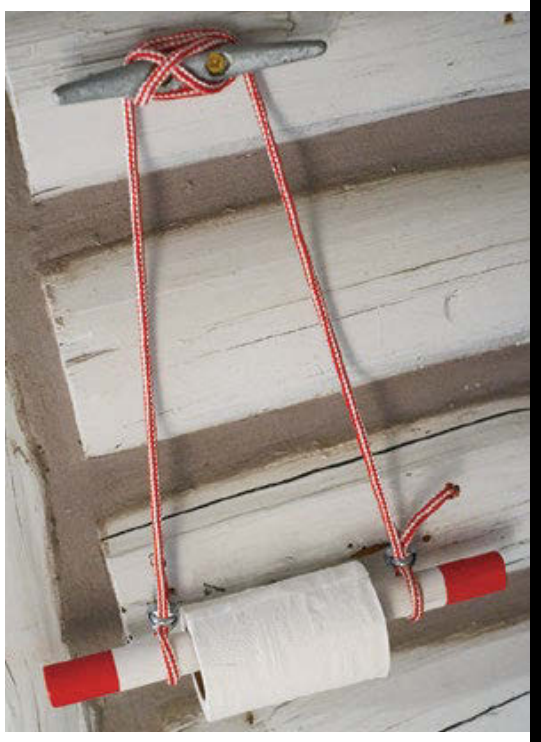
As the couple continues to add pieces to their home, charm and harmony prevail. The decor is a fun mix of artwork created by friends and family and discoveries from trips into Nicole’s parents’ basement—as well as one particularly fruitful trip to a local collector, where the couple discovered a vintage bench for the entryway and a handsome burnished cabinet for the dining room.

Colorful Spin on Style

Even the kitchen decor seems meant to be, with white vintage cabinets topped with original yellow Formica, and cabinet interiors that were already painted to match. Nicole and Sam simply removed the doors to show off the yellow and added dollops of green accents. One in particular is just another testament to their playful style. When asked about the green-tinted dishwasher, Nicole replies with a sheepish grin, “Oh, that’s the protective film that came on the dishwasher. We liked how it looked, so we just never peeled it off!”







TOP LEFT Nicole brought the pink blanket back from Australia, where she lived for a year. **TOP RIGHT** A red Ikea footstool pulls color from the bird drawing that Nicole’s younger brother created when he was only 5. **FAR RIGHT** Nicole fashioned a toilet paper holder from a boat cleat, line and painted dowel. **RIGHT** A yard sale in Los Angeles yielded this frame, which Nicole painted red and fitted with a mirror.







Essential Elements of **Rustic Style**

Whether you own a cabin or simply live in a home with a dull interior, these strategies can uplift the look.

✻ RESCUE WITH WHITE

It's no surprise that a generous use of white transforms a dim setting into a light, bright, inviting space.

✻ LET THE SUNLIGHT IN

Skylights welcome additional light into rooms to keep your decor—and your attitude—out of the shadows.

✻ TRY A SIGNIFICANT OTHER

Rather than look for color that's bold, select hues that stand out from the white surfaces without overwhelming.

✻ HAVE FUN WITH WHIMSY

Objects with a playful spirit lighten the mood.

✻ LOOK FOR MEANING

Collected pieces retell stories of friendship and fun, so you are always surrounded with belongings that have purpose.

TOP LEFT A friend made this vase from local birch as a gift. **TOP RIGHT** A Hoosier cabinet from Nicole's stepfather's childhood kitchen serves as a bar. **LEFT** The couple kept the vintage kitchen as they found it, complete with this one-piece sink-and-drainboard top.

Nicole and Sam painted a chevron pattern in gray to lend interest to white ceramic tile on the kitchen floor.


o
p
White Rock
SPARKLING BEVERAGES

GATHERING MEMORIES

The door's always open in these welcoming spaces that are set to happily host a crowd. Keeping the outlook chipper is a low-maintenance approach to decor: easy-care fabrics; throw rugs that can be tossed in the wash; on-the-spot storage for residents and guests to keep things organized. This makes way for the good stuff—time spent together enjoying badminton on the lawn, rainy day card games and s'mores under the stars.

PHOTO: MARK LOHMAN

The pine fireplace surround was based on an English mantel style. Recycled porcelain tile and a gas insert accent the mantel.
OPPOSITE Neutral walls and natural white oak floors are enlivened by bold orange linen draperies from Anthropologie and a black-and-white Dash & Albert rug.

Lighthearted SPIRIT

A children's book illustrator adapts her artistry to animate each room of her colorful new American farmhouse.

Written by **CYNTHIA WARD VESEY** *Photos by* **MARK LOHMAN** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**




Architecture



After spending 20 years in a large house in a subdivision in Conway, Arkansas, Melanie and Bill Siegel decided to make a change, moving to a new area with a small-town feel on the other side of town. "It's an old-fashioned, Mayberry-type place with big front porches and lots of social interaction," says Melanie, a children's book illustrator. "There were relatively few houses here when we decided to take the plunge."

The Siegels built their 2,500-square-foot house in the Village at Hendrix. "We had been ready for a residential change since our kids were leaving the nest, and we had grown tired of the upkeep of a 3,000-square-foot-house and large yard," explains Melanie.

One night a few years ago, Melanie and Bill were eating at one of the Village's restaurants and admired the neighborhood's classic architecture. "It was so quiet and the architecture of the street so captivating that we both realized this is what we had been looking for...a neighborhood that was resurrecting the neighborhood," recalls Melanie.

OPPOSITE Custom-made shelving in the library was given a fun look with bright green paint on the interiors. A rolling ladder, purchased from *StairwayShop.com*, came as a kit. **ABOVE** The kitchen island, topped with a Caesarstone counter, offers lots of space for prep work. Melanie covered bar stools from *Wayfair.com* with taffeta fabric in aqua blue. A tile backsplash (by Clayhaus Tiles, found at *ModWalls.com*), which Melanie and Bill installed themselves, inspired the color scheme for the entire home.

Making Fun a Priority

Working with Bret and Jennifer Franks of Bret Franks Construction, the Siegels helped design their house's layout, modeled after a traditional American farmhouse. "My husband and I wanted the house to be comfortable and livable with a floor plan that flows well and is easy to keep clean and organized," says Melanie.

While complementing the home's American style with traditional furnishings, Melanie also added contemporary touches and pops of color for an updated look. Melanie's background as an illustrator influenced many of her design choices. As she explains: "I'm a visual storyteller. It's just part of who I am and how I see things. I will almost always choose silly over serious, bright over muted, daft over decorum...."

Kitchen tiles by Clayhaus Tiles set the lighthearted tone for the space. "There was







TOP LEFT A highlight wall of bright orange and an eye-catching tile backsplash carry the home's whimsical mood into the powder room. **TOP RIGHT** The stairs were painted a bright green to bring a fun spirit to the utilitarian area. **LEFT** The screened-in porch, where the Siegels spend a lot of time, is on the back of the house and overlooks Melanie's English garden-in-progress and a landscaped pedestrian path. **OPPOSITE** The dining area is used for meals as well as craft projects. The table and chairs, from Ethan Allen's Fresh Colors Collection, combine all the hues in the home's color scheme. The china cabinet from Restoration Hardware is filled with ceramics, including pieces from *JossandMain.com*.

a single photo of all the colors they offered, and I was head over heels for it," says Melanie. "It became the color palette for the rest of the house." She and Bill installed the tiles, which include orange, aqua, green, gray, white and black. Bright orange draperies, striped throw rugs, graphic pillows and bold ceramics continue the lively mood.

Change for the Better

"Changing the decor around is something I enjoy doing, so I like to keep backgrounds neutral with bright, easy-to-change colors as accents. We wanted the house to feel inviting, fun and casual, casual, casual," says Melanie.

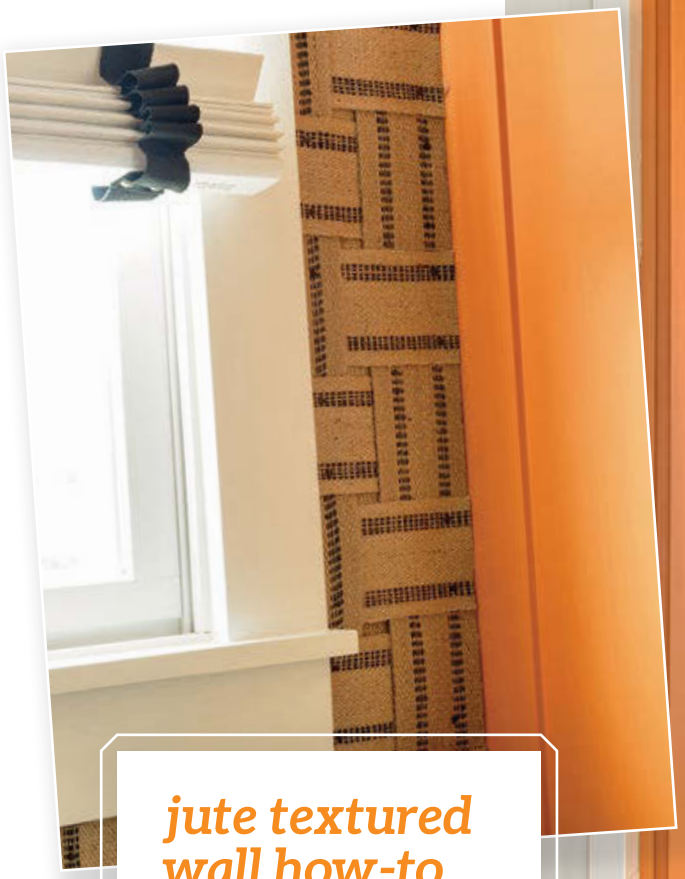
While it was difficult to leave the home she had lived in for two decades, Melanie is happy she decided to take the plunge. "I'm a fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants person," she laughs.

Be inspired!

Seating in mismatched colors or styles not only is a money-saving option but it also can help unite a home's many decor moods.



Built-in cabinets provide lots of storage space for everyday items in the mudroom. A colorful striped rug from Dash & Albert sets a welcoming tone. **OPPOSITE** Leather strap handles on the orange-painted cabinets are accented with tags topped with metal letters.



jute textured wall how-to

YOU NEED

- Jute webbing
- Burlap fabric
- Scissors
- White glue, water
- Tape measure
- Black nails

TO CREATE

STEP A Measure wall and cut a piece of burlap to fit. Use watered-down white glue to stick burlap to wall, which will provide a base and background for the webbing.

STEP B Use wall measurements to get an idea of how much jute webbing you will need (this jute, 20 yards, came from *OnlineFabricStore.net*).

STEP C Carefully cut jute and weave it together one section at a time. Attach jute to wall with little black nails.

STEP D For a coordinated look, cover an inexpensive footstool in the same way Melanie Siegel did in her living room (page 82). Cover with a burlap wrap, then add woven jute webbing all around. Staple the ends on the underside.

Essential Elements of Casual American Style

"Come on in and put your feet up" is the mantra of this inviting, family-friendly style.

✻ FURNISH FOR FUN

Having lots of comfortable, traditional-style seating options—sofas, loveseats, chairs—covered in vibrant fabrics; wooden cabinets filled with whimsical collections; and painted, mismatched tables and chairs will make your house a true nesting place.

✻ SMILE-SETTERS

A happy jumble of bright draperies, striped throw rugs, graphic pillows, colorful vintage-style posters and bold-hued ceramics brings instant joy to residents and guests.

✻ COLOR NOTES

Mix unexpectedly vivid colors, such as orange, aqua and green, amongst neutrals like white, gray and black.

"I'm a visual story-teller. It's just part of who I am and how I see things."







OPPOSITE Blue walls create a soothing atmosphere in the bedroom. Chenille fabric graced with colorful dots adds a touch of whimsy while offsetting the more traditional four-poster bed. Most of the pillows are reversible, so the decor can easily be changed up whenever the mood strikes. **ABOVE** A clawfoot tub and antique train rack, repurposed as a towel rack, create an old-fashioned ambience. Bathroom windows are framed by custom-made ticking curtains. **TOP RIGHT** The Quiet Glide bathroom door slides back and forth on the bar for a unique touch. **RIGHT** Attention to detail fills every inch of the Siegels' house. Here, a tin holding bath supplies emphasizes the farmhouse feel.

At Their LEISURE

A spring-fresh palette makes this Northwoods home a sunny charmer—even on cloudy days.



Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **MARK LOHMAN** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**

OPPOSITE French doors in the master bedroom open wide to reveal a roomy deck and breathtaking views of the water just beyond the cottage. **ABOVE** A screened-in porch is where the Mather family gathers for morning coffee and before dinner in the evenings. Comfy cushions with classic stripes give new life to the vintage wicker furnishings that once were used in Andy's parents' cottage.

Happy childhood memories

of her grandparents' summer house in Door County, Wisconsin, inspired Melissa Mather and her husband, Andy, to make a home there, too. They found a quiet, west-facing lot on the lake and asked architect Virge Temme to design a place for their family with the authentic look of an old Door County cottage.

"She [Temme] does a wonderful job of designing houses that are green and modestly sized, rather than too large," Melissa says. "She gave us her ideas, and we gave her ours, and it all melded into a beautiful place."

Wood planks on the walls and ceilings wrap every room in bygone flair. "We didn't want drywall anywhere," Melissa says. "The wood just gives it such a cottagey feel."

Color it Cheerful

The white-painted planks brighten interiors, too, setting the stage for a cheerful, springlike palette of aquas and pinks, which quietly show up in fabrics, vintage accessories and furnishings, such as a focal point worn-aqua dresser in one guest room.

"I like whimsical, lighter colors—hues





LEFT Stones cleared from the property during the building process form the fireplace façade in the living room. Overstuffed upholstered furnishings from Crate & Barrel and a rustic Restoration Hardware coffee table make this a cozy gathering spot. **ABOVE** Deep overhangs, steep gables, shed roof dormers and a front porch give the exterior of this new home old-house charm. **BOTTOM LEFT** This sign once hung on Andy's parents' cottage. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Painted wood and wicker chairs offer ample seating around the Crate & Barrel table. Stainless steel pendants create a contemporary counterpoint to the rustic pine beams and floor.





The aqua and pink palette continues to the guest bedroom, where a Crate & Barrel iron bed and a vintage quilt and dresser instill old-fashioned flavor. Melissa made the needlepoint artwork.

Essential Elements of **Door County Style**

It's no wonder Door County is known as the "Nantucket of the Midwest," with its quaint historical architecture and charming New England coastal cottage style.

✻ WALK THE PLANK

Wood planks lining walls—and even ceilings—transport interiors to the past.

✻ TRAVEL IN TIME

Capture that by-the-water feel with vintage or reproduction accents and furnishings, and collectibles with a coastal or nautical connection.

✻ EMBRACE FLAWS

Sand and salt air wear finishes, so appreciate the imperfections and look for pieces with worn paint and distressed wood.

✻ INVITE WARMTH

To create a cozy feel: Layer beds with quilts; choose overstuffed furnishings; add plump pillows; and include a few natural wood pieces or architectural elements.

✻ WHITE OUT

White remains a staple for giving your Door County Cottage interiors a sunlit feel—even on cloudy days.



that are sunny, and so does Andy," Melissa says. "We did leave floors and exposed beams natural to bring warmth into the rooms, too."

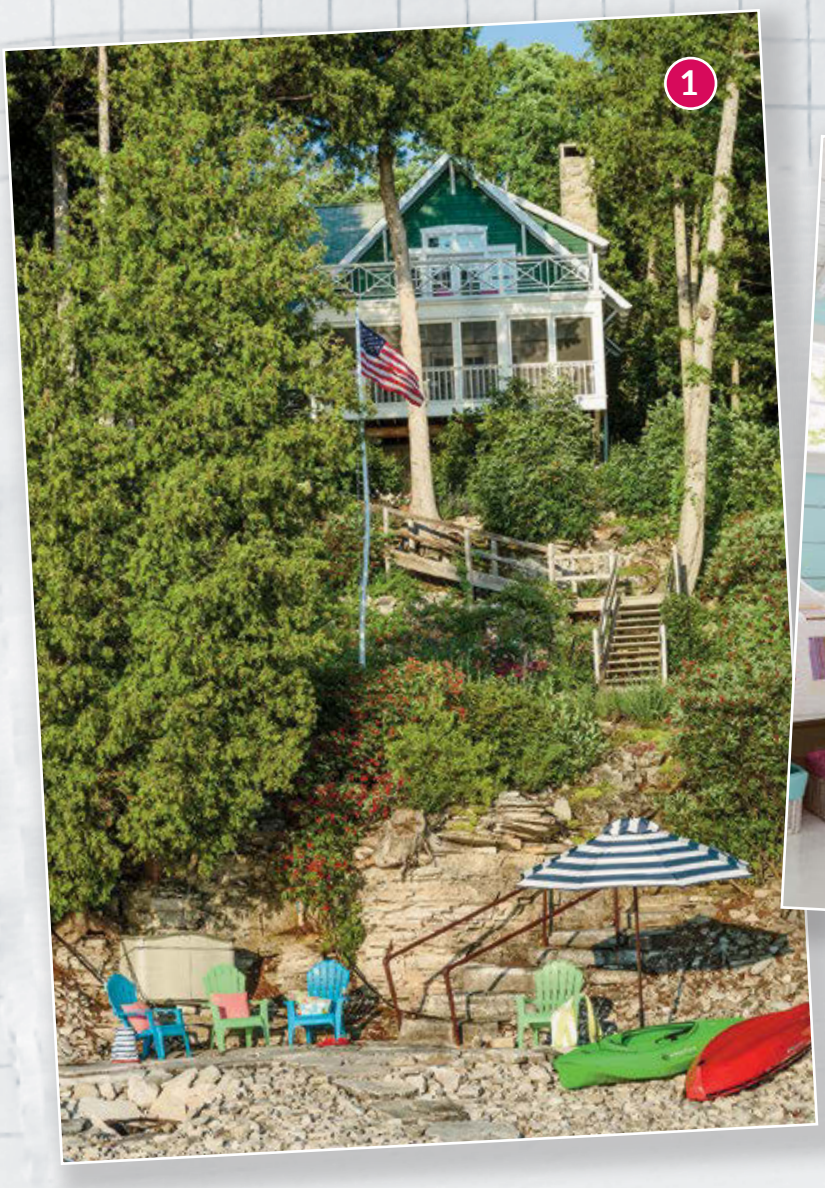
Goodnight Moon

When it finally is time to retire after a busy day playing on the lake, the home offers plenty of places for family members and visitors to sleep, thanks in part to a pale aqua-and-white bunkroom, cleverly outfitted with three built-in beds dressed in cheerful, contemporary-patterned quilts.

And it's around bedtime, as the sun settles on the horizon, when the Mathers' favorite "show" comes on. "The sunsets every day are spectacular," Melissa recounts with wonder, "and then when the moon is full and over the water, it's hard to describe how beautiful it is to see the stars and the Milky Way. We love living in this cottage on the water."

Lined baskets tuck beneath a built-in bunk bed unit so grandchildren and other guests have a place to stow belongings. Niches at the head and foot offer space for books, drinks and more.

Ready For Guests







Set out the welcome mat for visitors—and family members, too. A few simple tricks make the living easy.

LOW-MAINTENANCE STYLE

One thing is certain: If you have a house near the water, you are going to have visitors, maybe lots of them. But even when it's just you and your family, you want the space to function efficiently so that you can keep the emphasis where it belongs—on relaxation, spending time together and having fun.

1. CREATE ACTIVITY ZONES. Portions of level ground were carved out between the Mathers' house and the rock-laden beach below for fun and practicality: One level accommodates croquet matches and Melissa's gardens. The lower level makes room for a dock to hold and launch kayaks, a paddle boat and a jet ski; the boys and their friends also fish off the dock.

2. MAXIMIZE YOUR OPTIONS. Carve out space for sleeping quarters with lofts and bunk beds wherever possible. Last-minute guests? Air mattresses or even an old sofa on a screened porch will do the trick.

3. PLAN FOR A RAINY DAY. Keep games or materials for simple crafts projects, like rock painting, on hand for those times kids can't go outside.

4. KEEP ORDER IN THE HOUSE. Shelving in the Mather bunkroom stands in for closets. If storage space is at a premium, baskets make great, easy organizers. Give each guest one to use as desired. Problem solved!



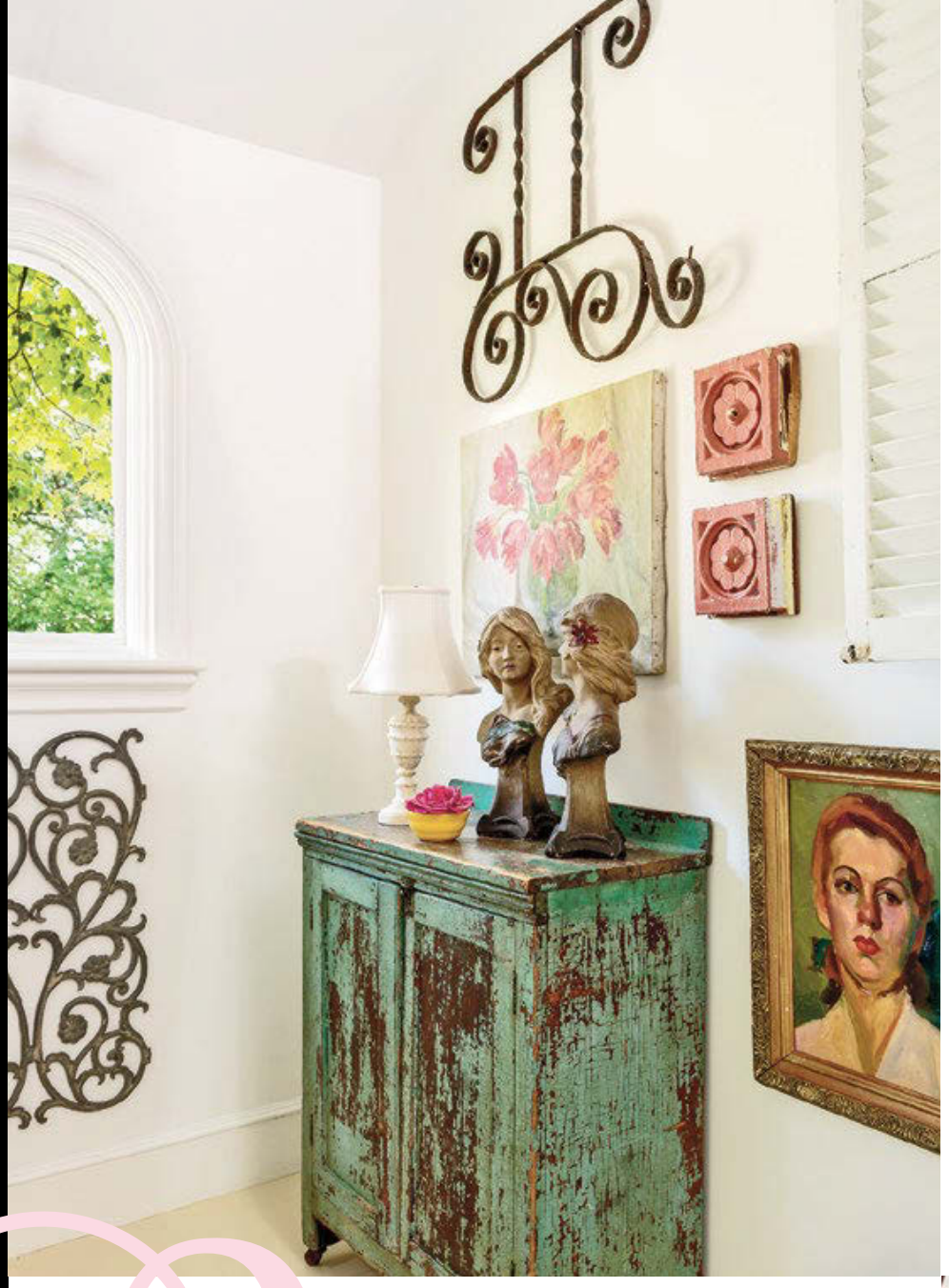
Flea Market FRESHNESS

Vintage treasures imbue every room in this house with colorful collected energy.

In the living room, authentic barn beams, a reproduction limestone fireplace from Exquisite Surfaces and multi-pane, transom-topped windows communicate bygone character, preparing the way for the plethora of vintage furnishings and accents interior designer and homeowner Alison Kandler procures.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **MARK LOHMAN** *Styling by* **LAURA HULL**

The hooked rug inspired the room's other colorful accents, including the Bauer Pottery on the flea market table. Antique spool chairs add a dramatic pop of black. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** The entry area serves as an introduction to some of the things Alison loves: worn paint, intricate iron pieces and pre-1930s amateur artwork. • Bauer Pottery is a particular collecting passion for Alison, who has around 200 pieces. • In the dining area, an old American schoolhouse table and new Restoration Hardware chairs are prettily set off by an Idarica Gazzoni wall covering.





If white walls transform any room into interior designer Alison Kandler's blank canvas, then flea market finds act as a painter's palette in her creative hands. Rather than compose an image with acrylics or oils, she wields these found bits of history and nostalgia like a skilled artist, infusing spaces with texture, color and pattern to disperse vintage vitality throughout her home.

When they remodeled their 1927 Santa Monica, California, house, Alison and her husband, Brian, along with 10-year-old daughter Paisley, created an ideal showcase for these charming collected interiors.

An Anglophile's Eye

"When I first saw the house," Alison recalls, "I envisioned an English beach cottage, which means there would be nothing fancy—just worn fabrics and sink-in-soft furniture. I wanted this to be a place where you just feel so comfortable that you want to kick your shoes off and put your feet up."

Working with architect Joan Swartz (who is also Alison's business partner), the couple opted for a to-the-studs redo to lift ceilings,



enlarge window openings and nearly double square footage. They finished by painting most every wall and ceiling white.

Into the Light

"Color needs light," Alison says. "You can put all kinds of color into a room, but if the house is dark, you won't see the color. This house is just flooded with sunlight." In addition, white walls, Alison explains, allow her to easily change the decor around from room to room.

"Most of my stuff is from flea markets—there's one around here every weekend," Alison says. "I'll bring something incredible home, and then I figure out where I want it and everything changes."

While every find offers unique personality, Alison is consistently drawn to certain themes and colors, which helps the eclectic collection ultimately work together.



TOP The family room is designed for mother-daughter creativity: Alison's office desk is on the left, Paisley's is on the right. Budding artist Paisley also uses the coffee table for projects. **RIGHT** Paisley's art supplies neatly fill this vintage pie safe. Salvaged lattice acts as graphic wall art above. The miniature chairs are salesmen's samples that Alison collects.

A Galbraith & Paul wall covering backs the built-in shelf "as a pleasant surprise," Alison says. "It just helps the objects not become lost as they would against white."



OPPOSITE Floral fabric on the banquette pillows inspired a host of kitchen colors, particularly coral and blue. Alison locates glass tables near windows to "bring the outdoors in," she says. **RIGHT** Italian fixtures line the kitchen ceiling to mimic an outdoor walkway. **BELOW** A French blue Lacanche range, topped by a custom-made scalloped hood, creates a fabulous focal point, while white cabinetry sets off coral-colored pulls and knobs.





"I think my love for old things started back when I didn't have any money," she says, "so I found the flea markets. At first, I would bring things home and fix them up, paint them. But over time, I began to appreciate the beauty of faded colors, worn finishes, and the casual warmth and history they bring to a room in their found condition. I just hate a space that is delivered and decorated in a day."

Indeed, every piece in every room of Alison's house tells the story of her love for furniture still dressed in peeling layers of paint or of her passion for the many colors of Bauer Pottery, which is peppered throughout, providing design inspiration wherever it is placed.

Continuing Creations

Regardless of the original inspiration, Alison and her family thrive on the energy each space emits. Like her mother, daughter Paisley is creative, and she works alongside mom in the family room, producing art and other projects.

"The house does reflect our personalities, and I think it feels fun and colorful," Alison says. "My main goals were for it to feel happy and comfortable and that everyone would feel at home here. To us," she concludes, "living here is like a full-time vacation."

A coral color makes the leaded-glass doors that lead into Brian's office things of beauty. Sheer Roberta Roller Rabbit fabric backs the glass for privacy and panache.

"My main goals were for it to feel happy and comfortable."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Mesh door insets, corbels and open shelves lend charm to the laundry room. • In the master bath, a Cheviot clawfoot tub wears custom-matched coral. • An old storage cabinet features worn peach paint, revealing layers of colors and decades of use. • Bamboo bands and a limestone counter give the vanity British Colonial styling.



A vintage Pennsylvania Dutch painted trunk is the highlight of the guest bedroom. This is the only space with color on the walls—the pale lavender hue allows the white-painted floor to pop.

Essential Elements of English Cottage Style

You'll feel like you're always on vacation when you bring this casual, comfortable style home.

✻ WORN PAINT
Weathered painted finishes bring in bygone charm and require little upkeep. Remember: More wear equals more beauty. Continue the look of painted finishes to wood floors for vintage flair that also feels really great underfoot.

✻ FAB FINDS
Let your interiors evolve over time as you bring home pieces you love from jaunts to antiques stores, flea markets, garage sales and junk shops.

✻ ARCHITECTURAL STYLE
Elements salvaged from old houses can give even a new home old-fashioned appeal: shutters, windows, old doors, corbels and ironwork are just a few examples.

✻ GARDEN THEMES
Soften the setting with touches of pretty fabrics, especially florals. Repeat these ageless floral motifs in everything from dishware to paintings to wall coverings.

✻ SINK-INTO SEATING
Overstuffed upholstered pieces communicate quintessential English style and comfort.





custom lamp how-to

YOU NEED

- Ceramic vase or jar
- Drill, ceramic drill bit
- Lamp adapter kit
- Lampshade

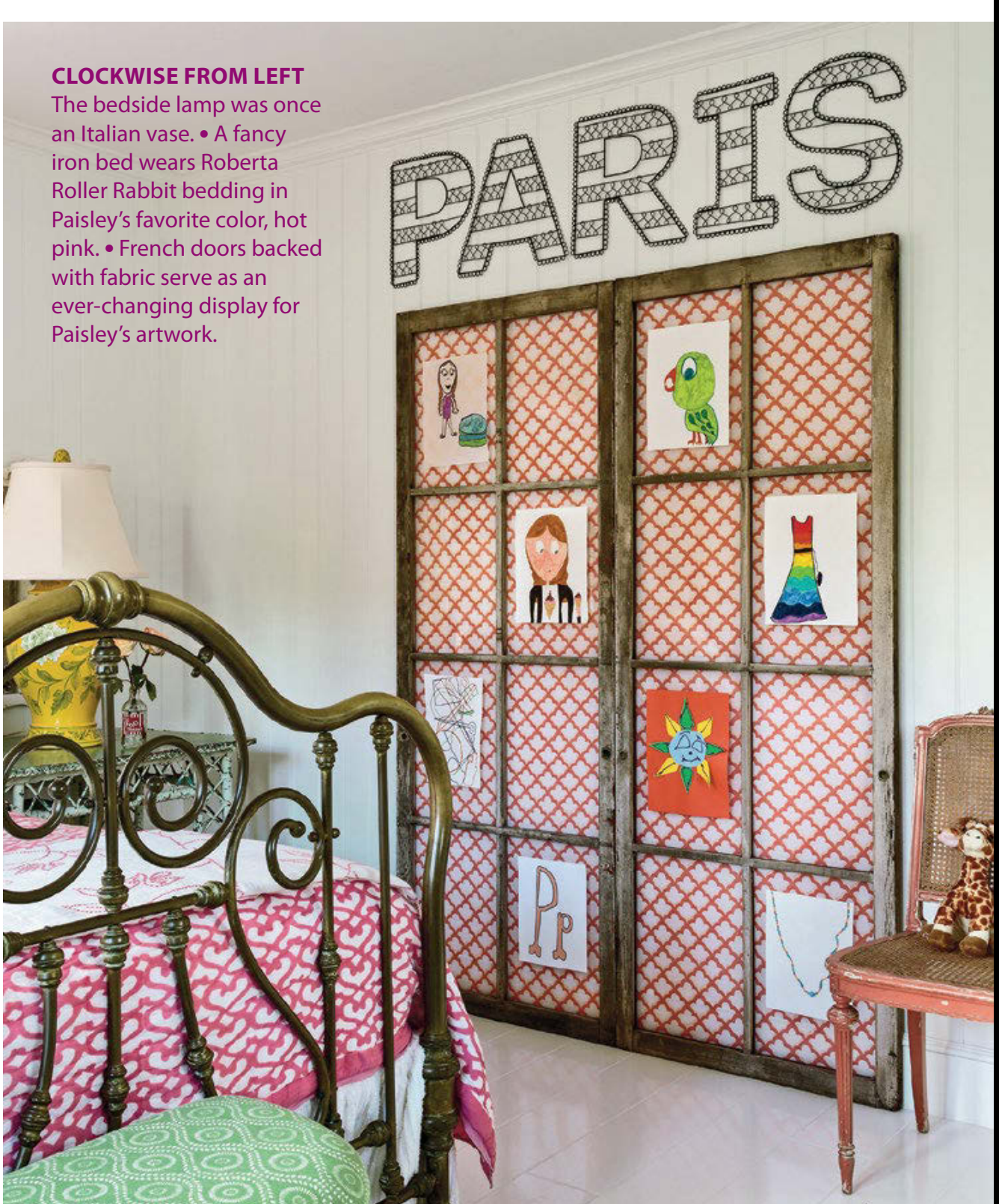
TO CREATE

STEP A Purchase a lamp adapter kit according to your vase's opening. Some plug-and-socket combos sit on a wide cork that can "plug" the top; otherwise, look for a regular kit with a central rod and buy a vase cap separately.

STEP B Invert vase on a padded, hard surface and place a couple of layers of masking tape over the center where you will drill. Using a ceramic bit, very gently drill through tape, stopping to wet the drill area every 20 seconds, until you have a hole.

STEP C Assemble lamp kit following manufacturer's instructions and top the ensemble with a lampshade.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
The bedside lamp was once an Italian vase. • A fancy iron bed wears Roberta Roller Rabbit bedding in Paisley's favorite color, hot pink. • French doors backed with fabric serve as an ever-changing display for Paisley's artwork.





VINTAGE PATINA

Everything old is new again when the collector's eye joins forces with an upcycler's soul to infuse a home with fresh, but soulful, character. Although the look favors buying what you love and making it work together, editing is key to ensure quality displays that stay on clutter's good side. When that happy balance of function and nostalgia is met, the reward is a highly personalized interior that stands the test of time.

PHOTO: MARK LOHMAN

Retro-Chic WELCOME

Midcentury modern style mingles with fabulous finds and turquoise hues in a house that defines casual elegance—with a glamorous twist.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **MARK LOHMAN** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**



OPPOSITE Storage beneath the seats makes this built-in banquette a multifunctional beauty. Homeowner Bethany Herwegh found the 1950s tablecloth on *Etsy.com* and added pillows from Pottery Barn, Etsy and Anthropologie. **ABOVE** Modern-day bark cloth dresses a 1920s chair, repeating the peacock hue on the bookshelf backdrop. Cabinetry above the fireplace conceals a television.

The glamour of the 1940s, '50s and '60s sets Bethany Herwegh's heart aflutter. So much so that she founded the popular blog *TheGlamorousHousewife.com* to share her passion for all things retro and sophisticated in fashion, decor, cooking, crafting and more.

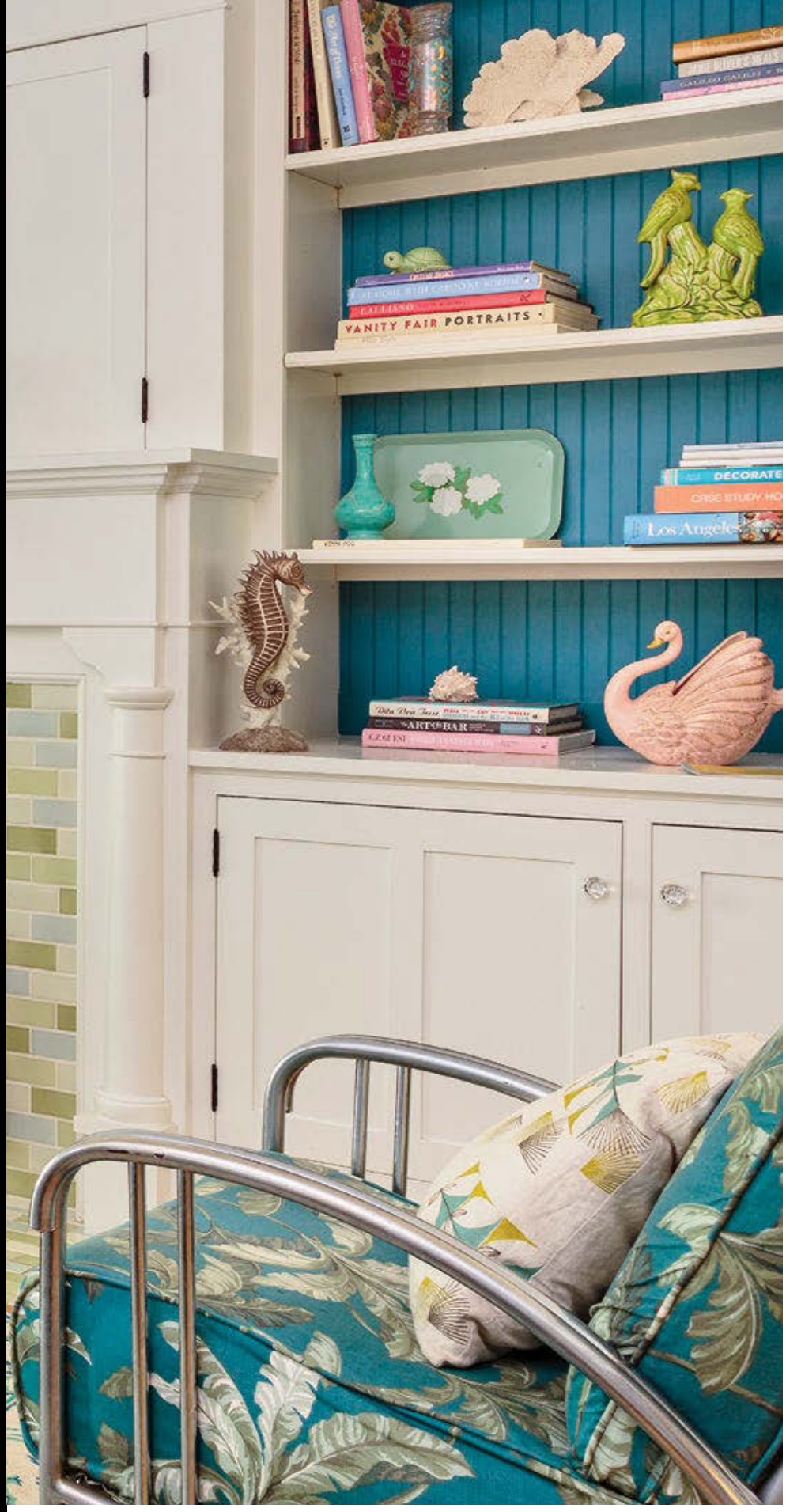
Her new Manhattan Beach, California, home (by architect Lewin Wertheimer), which she shares with husband Chip and their three children, serves as her real-life lab for creating inspirational midcentury-modern-spiced rooms that are both casual and elegant—perfect for family life and entertaining.

"We designed the house to look like it has always been here," Bethany says.

Inside Secrets

This former costume designer masterfully tracks down vintage-geared resources to dress each room. Elements both new and old are enhanced by Chip's talent for woodworking and fondness for Craftsman styling.

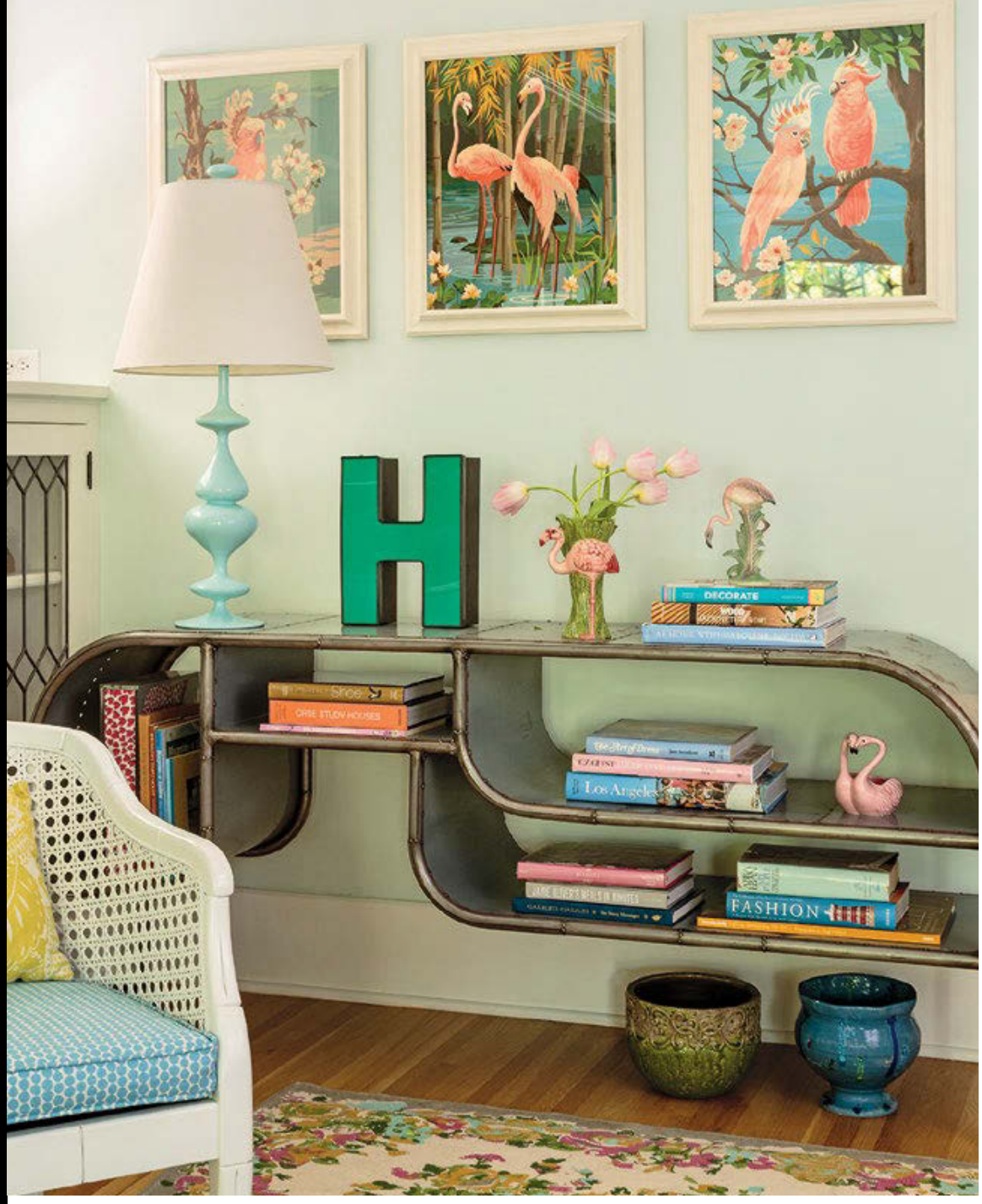
For example, Chip constructed the built-in banquette off the kitchen, adding beaded-board side panels for vintage charm, while Bethany selected kid-friendly outdoor fabric





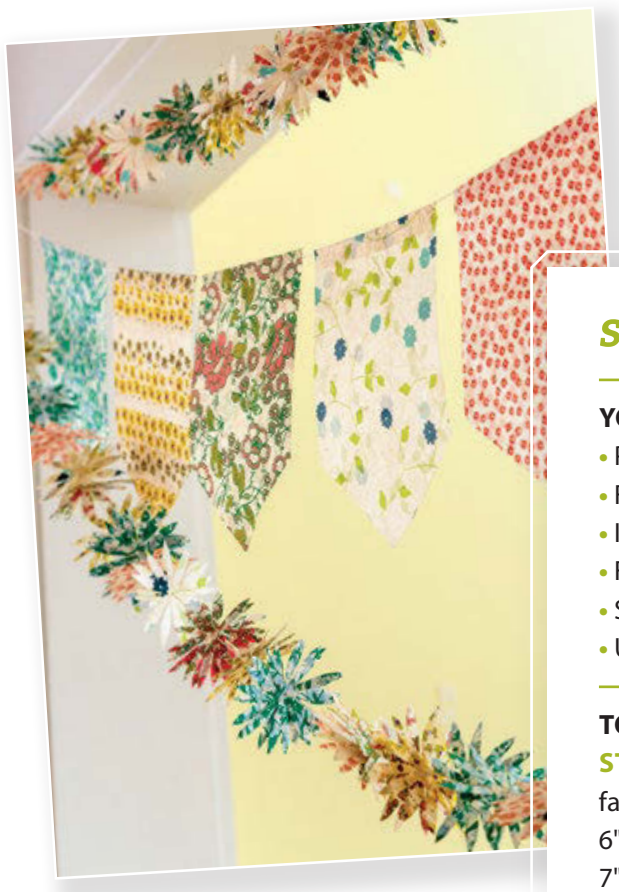


ABOVE The deep natural wood tones of the Anthropologie trunk lend warmth to the living room's abundant white. Soft green Ann Sacks tiles on the fireplace frame a 1960s peacock screen found on *Etsy.com*. **TOP RIGHT** A Dutch door makes a neighborly addition to the entryway, which faces a walk street. Vintage lockers with custom powder-coated doors provide storage for knickknacks and linens. **RIGHT** Vintage foil wallpaper with a whimsical fish motif (an eBay find) pairs with a salvaged turn-of-the-century corner sink in the powder room.





ABOVE A mod console table from *ClevelandArt.com* brings a touch of industrial chic to the family room. Vintage bird prints add playful touches. **RIGHT** Above the casual Quatrine sectional in the family room, a 1930s Stanley Tools poster nods to Chip's woodworking skills. **BELOW** Paper garlands from *BHLDN.com* dress up the family room windows.



summer garland how-to

YOU NEED

- Patterned cotton fabric
- Fusible interfacing
- Iron
- Fabric scissors
- String
- Upholstery or large needle

TO CREATE

STEP A From the same fabric, cut one strip that's 6" high and a second that's 7" high. Cut interfacing into 6"-high strips to match width of fabric. **STEP B** Lay the 7" strip pattern-side down; lay interfacing over it so the bottoms line up; then add the 6" strip, facing up, over interfacing, again lining it up with the bottom edge. Iron to fuse sides according to manufacturer's directions. **STEP C** Measure and mark cut lines every 4" along the width of the strip and cut what will be rectangles. Measure and trim at bottom to create a point or bottom edge of your choice. Fold over extra inch of fabric at top of each. Repeat with different fabric pattern. **STEP D** Lay out finished "flags" in the order you like, lay string along the top, fold top of 7" fabric over string and, using small pieces of interfacing (or fabric glue), seal the hem to attach it to string. Repeat for each flag.



for the cushions. Every Friday night a half-dozen children eat here, while the adults relax at a more substantial table in the dining room.

"We can comfortably seat 14 around this table, which is an Italian door on a sturdy trestle base," Bethany says.

Luxe Living

Like the banquette versus the dining room, two living spaces serve as the Yin-Yang of casual/glamorous options for gathering and relaxing. In the more formal living room, pops of peacock blue stand out as a backdrop for white built-in shelves. The vivid hue repeats in a pair of chic 1920s chairs with chrome arms.

On the flip side, the family room offers a cushy gray sectional with pillows and a vintage poster.

A Tropical Forest

When it's time for Bethany and Chip to escape all the activity, their master suite provides the feel of an island haven, initiated by a wall covering of green palm leaves on a field of blue that wraps the room in restful splendor.

To complete the space, she added an orb-shaped lighting fixture above the bed "so it seems to glow like a full moon when it's lit up at night," Bethany explains. It's a fitting romantic finish for this Glamorous Housewife, don't you think?

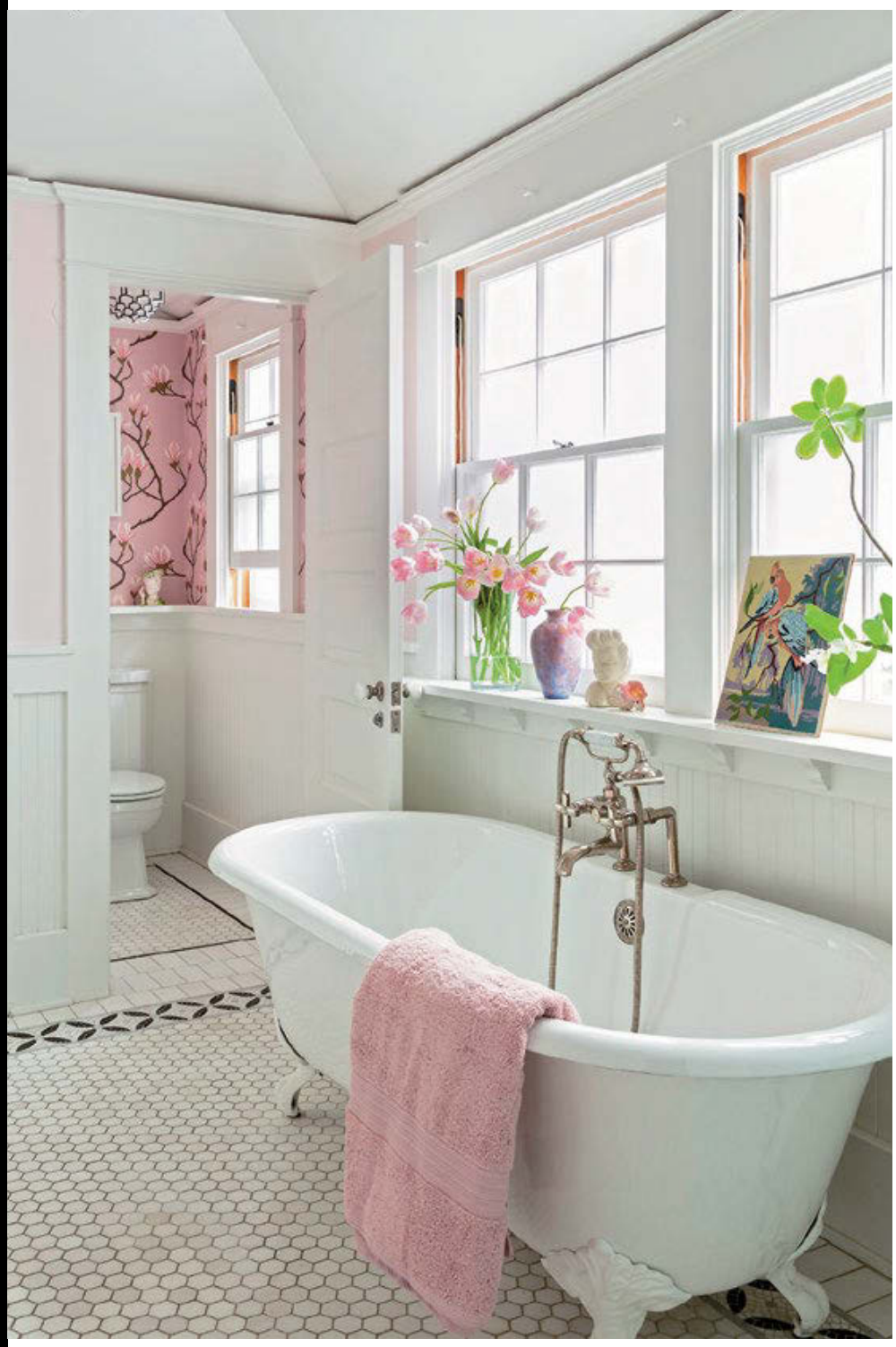


ABOVE Clustered vintage Italian light fixtures from *ObsoleteInc.com* and a refurbished antique O'Keefe range bring bygone charm to the kitchen. Modern-day glass composite countertops ensure functional beauty. **OPPOSITE** Dining room drama begins overhead with a gorgeous chandelier from *1stDibs.com* and a Hygge & West wall covering, with turquoise swallows swooping amongst the clouds.



Be inspired!
Mirrored glass mosaic tiles reflect light and brighten the inset backsplash on the turquoise buffet.

"I wanted the bedroom to feel like we were sleeping in a tropical forest."





OPPOSITE A Cole and Son wall covering with green palm leaves on sky blue transforms the master bedroom into a tropical getaway. White shells give the spherical Neiman Marcus light fixture a beach feel. **ABOVE LEFT** Black-and-white hexagonal mosaic tiles and a clawfoot tub promote old-house character in the new master bathroom, which includes his-and-her toilet rooms. **ABOVE RIGHT** A turquoise HomeGoods tray and a vintage vase offer a colorful beginning to the day.

Essential Elements of **Retro-Chic Style**

Glam up your digs with furnishings and flair that embrace the chic retro styles of the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

✻ PICK YOUR PALETTE

Look to old advertising pieces as well as vintage fabrics (including tablecloths and clothing) and dishware from those decades to help you select a period-appropriate palette.

✻ SAVE AND SPLURGE

Invest in some signature pieces to "make" the room, and then save elsewhere with more affordable fare. In Bethany Herwegh's living room, for example, it's the chrome-arm chairs dressed in brilliant blue bark cloth that serve as foundational pieces. In the dining room, a turquoise blue cabinet with a glam mirrored backsplash and multicolored Eames-style chairs provide retro-chic glamour.

✻ MIND YOUR MOTIFS

Include fabrics and wall coverings with striking era-specific patterns to sprinkle retro touches throughout a room.



A Little Bit BOHO

On this mini farm, free-spirited style is as abundant as the homegrown food and engaging fellowship.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **JOHN ELLIS** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**

A pastoral half acre in Phoenix, Arizona, harbors a family on a journey to live a simple, sustainable life. Surrounded by raised vegetable gardens and an assortment of chickens and ducks, Caroline Van Slyke nurtures Boho Farm and Home (*BohoFarmandHome.com*); her husband, David; their children, Catherine, 18, and young David, 7, as well as a burning desire to share her homesteading passions.

A few weekends a year, her yard overflows with visitors who come to sample her delectable farm-to-table fare. The throng sits under the trees at a hip hodgepodge of charming vintage tables and chairs to enjoy the placid pulsations of this mini farm, where locals also buy eggs, fresh produce and Caroline's homemade jams. She offers classes on subjects ranging from raising chickens to gardening to jam-making to preserving sauerkraut and other garden-fresh goodies.

Funky Mix-Master

As vibrant and unpackaged as her lifestyle, the interiors of Caroline's home reflect her outside-the-box mindset and creativity as an interior designer. The house nearly vibrates with a bright mix of color and varied patterns,

OPPOSITE Homeowner/interior designer Caroline Van Slyke used a swag light kit to position the Pottery Barn wicker shade above the table. **RIGHT** Produce plucked from Boho Farm fills a platter.





ABOVE Caroline dubs contrary pairings as "Fine and Folk," such as the entry's pine table and gilt mirror. Tables like this move outside to accommodate biannual farm-to-table feeds for the community. **LEFT** A red-and-white gingham shade contrasts with the primitive green sign. **OPPOSITE** A gallery wall in the family room displays a collection of amateur landscape and still life paintings.

recover a lampshade

YOU NEED

- Fabric, shade, poster board
- Pencil, scissors
- Adhesive spray

TO CREATE

STEP A Lay poster board on a flat surface and place shade on the board. Starting at the seam, mark the top and bottom of the shade as you roll it across the board until you arrive again at the seam. Add an extra half-inch to each side and end.

STEP B Cut pattern from the poster board and trace it onto the wrong side of fabric. Cut the traced pattern from fabric. Spray the surface of your shade and then the wrong side of fabric with the adhesive spray.

STEP C Smooth fabric over shade, starting and ending at the seam. Fold fabric end under; press and secure with adhesive. Starting from the center, smooth the fabric toward the top and bottom to eliminate any air bubbles. Fold fabric edges over the top and bottom of your shade.



Essential Elements of **Boho Style**

Express your free-spirited nature with this intuitive style—a whimsical amalgamation of primitive and elegant vintage pieces as well as modern fare, all sweetened with a mix of color and pattern.

✻ FOLK AND FINERY

Juxtapose primitive treasures with more elegant pieces, such as a distressed pine table with a fancy gilt-framed mirror, to create an eye-pleasing push-pull of elements hailing from opposite sides of the track.

✻ REPURPOSED ROLES

View salvaged goods in a fresh light, envisioning them for a purpose, such as old crates and drawers for storage and rescued shutters as wall art. Or, reconfigure elements for a new use, such as adding a base to a vintage door to create a charming table. Any elements you combine can also be united with a fresh coat of paint.

✻ PALETTES AND PATTERNS

Select a host of dominant colors along with a few accent hues you like and repeat them from room to room, as well as from pattern to pattern. This strategy helps visually create continuity throughout the house while harmonizing a mix of patterns.

Be inspired!

Folding chairs serve an extremely useful purpose, but a coat of chipper paint makes them look more whimsical than workhorse.

OPPOSITE In a kitchen corner, a primitive cabinet serves as a coffee bar, located outside the busy work core. **ABOVE** David cut the legs down on an old potting bench with worn green paint; it now acts as a practical centerpiece for the sunroom. A red sofa from Denver Design Center and a vintage French daybed provide visual tension. **RIGHT** A bushel basket shade lights this bentwood rocker. **BELOW** A vintage drawer becomes a charming organizer for kitchen utensils.









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Desperate for more storage, Caroline transformed a coat closet into a mudroom/pantry by adding pegs, shelves and baskets. • The Carrara marble kitchen countertops were cut 2" thick for an updated look. • A butcher block-topped island boosts workspace and storage in the modest-size kitchen.



which mingle with diverse furnishings—from primitive cabinets to gilt-framed mirrors.

"I just surround myself with funky things I find," Caroline says. "I also include memories from my family or special trips. I love mixing patterns and colors and things that really shouldn't match but end up going together."

A Work in Progress

Using a core palette of reds, greens and yellows spiced with orange and dollops of turquoise, Caroline creates lively sparks and continuity throughout the house with a jovial mingling of plaid, stripes, paisleys, checks and more.

No small accomplishment, as the 1951 ranch rambles with abundant spaces for family life and entertaining—but a decided lack of storage. All of which Caroline resolves head-on, using old cabinets and shelves to keep organized, upholstered and flea market chairs for ample and comfortable seating, and rustic pine and metal-topped tables for serving homegrown, home-cooked meals to crowds of friends and family.

"We've lived here 18 years," Caroline says. "And it is just a work in progress and really a labor of love. I come up with crazy ideas and my sweet husband helps me carry them out."



TOP Color palette consistency ensures that the master bedroom's plaid Ralph Lauren throw harmonizes with Indian batik-print bedding. **ABOVE** A turquoise stone necklace, made by Caroline's father-in-law, finds a landing spot on this charming MacKenzie-Childs tray.

Authentic WARMTH

A bespoke paper printer embraces the hand-crafted history of her home, refreshing the look while honoring the past.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **JOHN ELLIS** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**





It's not hard to see why Sue Kaplan fell for this charming 1913 Craftsman bungalow, located on one of the unique walk-streets in Venice Beach, California. As the owner of The Garlow Studio (*TheGarlowStudio.com*), a business that does custom handprinting on fine paper using a 100-year-old press, Sue appreciates quality vintage craftsmanship. And fortunately for this old house, the previous owners left most of the original features unscathed, from beautiful built-in cabinetry to gorgeous moldings—even the glass sleeping porch remained.

"It had such nice light and good bones," Sue recalls of her home. "I knew right away that I wanted it."

Past Perfected

After several years of living in the house and coming to know it well, Sue asked designer Dayle Zukor for help in refreshing the look without sacrificing the old-house character. Together, they brought in color, fabrics and furnishings all befitting the charming Craftsman vibe.

LEFT An original Donegal rug anchors the dining room's vintage Stickley table and chairs and a Charles Limbert side table. **ABOVE** A hand-embroidered Ann Chaves runner suits the finely crafted furniture.

Enhancing the period feel are original Stickley furnishings, which are paired with modern-day Charles Limbert pieces and handmade items by furniture crafter Stephen Ritson.

Walls are dressed in a variety of colors borrowed from nature, including soft greens, buttery yellows, and ocean and sky blues. All set off the warmth of the natural woodwork and wood furnishings, allowing these elements to shine brightest.

Transformed Over Time

Reproduction Batchelder tiles restored the fireplace, which had been refaced in white-painted brick—one of the few elements in the house that had been altered.

"I didn't transform the house in one fell swoop," Sue says, "but I did it over time. It's been interesting and exciting how it's coming together into a home where people love it and feel comfortable as soon as they step inside."

ABOVE Jodhpur-blue walls make this sitting room a relaxing spot to read, while nicely framing the Arts and Crafts storage pieces by Stephen Ritson. The sofa folds out for overnight guests. **TOP RIGHT** An Arts and Crafts desk in the sunroom provides a spot for Sue to create typography designs. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Fabric by textile artist Ann Wallace softens the passage between the dining room and kitchen.





LEFT A Lindberg library table and original Stickley chairs create a cozy nook in a window-wrapped kitchen corner. **ABOVE** The simple forms of Luna Garcia pottery introduce color and elegance. **BELOW** Slag glass and reproduction tiles from Mission Tile West merge with new cabinetry, made by Stephen Ritson, in the kitchen. **OPPOSITE** The sunroom, with its Paul Ferrante chair and ottoman, serves as Sue's office.





Essential Elements of **Craftsman Style**

Become one with nature and enjoy the warmth and inviting flair of spaces decorated in Craftsman-cottage style.

✻ NATURAL STAINED WOODS

For an authentic look, leave furniture and woodwork untouched by paint, and instead bring out the warm glow of the wood with a variety of natural stains and finishes.

✻ PERIOD-FRIENDLY FINDS

Study up on Arts and Crafts period furnishings, accessories and materials (such as tile and slag glass) to give your rooms the subtle elegance and fine details associated with these handcrafted designs. Originals are pricey, but good reproductions abound.

✻ NATURE-INSPIRED HUES

Look to the outdoors to help you select appropriate colors for walls, rugs and accessories. Sky, water and plant life can inspire the subtle blues, greens and yellows that perfectly pair with the natural beauty of wood.

✻ SMART ARCHITECTURE

As hinted by the name, Craftsman-style homes are as efficient as they are beautiful and are full of built-ins, window seats and other eye-catching, space-smart elements.





ABOVE Reproduction Batchelder tiles on the fireplace provide a charming backdrop for this set of Stephen Ritson chairs. **LEFT** A Royal Craftsman light fixture suits the bungalow's exterior. The slag glass inset in the walnut door foretells more authentic Craftsman charisma to come.

About Reproduction Lighting



Put the spotlight on style with reproduction lighting that's as affordable as it is eye-catching.



Crystal Clear

LEFT Step back in time with the Clarissa Glass Drop Sconce. Crafted of iron and glass, it features 50 teardrops and raindrops in four sizes, with a faceted-glass globe at the bottom. *potterybarn.com*



That Warm Glow

ABOVE With its clean lines, the Pinehurst Mission Art-Glass wall sconce works with most any decor. Available in a choice of six art-glass styles, the lantern features solid brass parts and can be used both indoors and out. *rejuvenation.com*

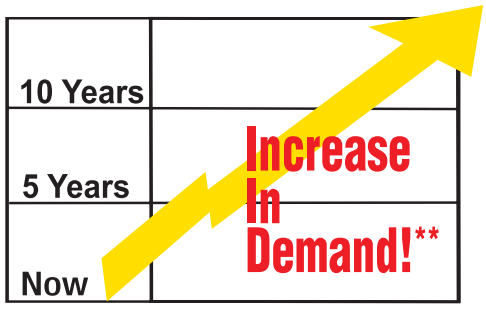
Classic Charm

LEFT The Whitney pendant was designed to reflect the artistry of Parisian Art Nouveau lighting. Its elegant shade is crafted of pressed, fluted glass, with an Antique Mercury finish. *potterybarn.com*

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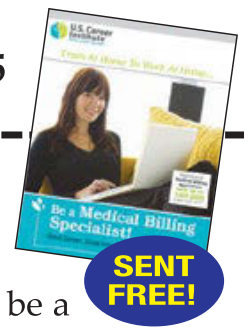
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Warming Up THE BACKYARD

A refurbished toolshed is a fitting vintage backdrop for blooming bursts of cottage-inspired color.

Written by **JAN SOULTS WALKER** *Photos by* **MARK LOHMAN** *Styling by* **SUNDAY HENDRICKSON**

Smart planning for living spaces isn't just for inside the house. When you use your outdoor areas for daily relaxing and entertaining, creating good flow and introducing enticing color outside become important elements—just as they would be in any interior room. Include flowering plants for color; flowerbeds and paths to influence traffic; and furnishings to create gathering spots, and you will have all the makings for extending your living spaces without adding on.

Dean Day's Southern California garden is a case in point—an outdoor getaway burgeoning with English cottage charm that's so popular, he estimates 90 percent of his meals are enjoyed outside. Couples want to get married here, too, and many do.

Color Guides

The irresistible allure begins at the deck of the 1940s home where film star Bette Davis once lived. Family and friends naturally drift out onto the lawn, where the gentle curves of color-filled flowerbeds serve as graceful

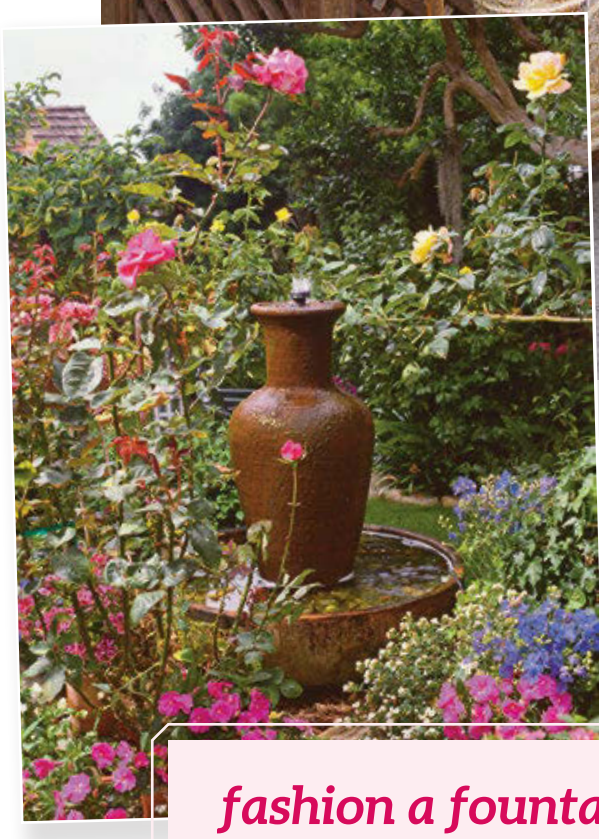
OPPOSITE The cedar shake-sided toolshed, vintage lamppost and picket fence underscore the cottage stylings of the undulating flowerbeds, planted with a casual mix of wax flowers, white petunia, geraniums, vinca, impatiens, gladiolas and lobelia. **THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT** A retaining wall barely holds back a blooming cascade of creeping fig vine, geraniums, foxglove, baby's breath, white petunia and Mexican sage. • A red Adirondack chair brings a pop of color to this resting spot, where Spanish moss dangles overhead, and flagstones and baby's breath serve as an earthy "carpet" underfoot. • A stately, vine-covered arbor creates an almost magical entryway to the "secret garden" beyond.











ABOVE Deck railings dressed in pristine white define this delightful spot for dining or enjoying a drink. Containers of flowers and other plants ensure this patio is blooming with color. **LEFT** A can-do mindset and damaged discount pottery led to the creation of this fountain. Including the soothing splashes of a water feature, such as this, is a smart ploy, as it helps camouflage street noise.

fashion a fountain

YOU NEED

- Container fountain kit
- Reservoir container base
- Urn or other container
- Drill
- River rocks

TO CREATE

STEP A Carefully drill a hole that's large enough to thread through a plug (approximately 1¼" in diameter) in bottom side of urn. Drill another, smaller hole on the opposite side of the first hole.

STEP B Assemble the pump from the container kit (for an online source: *smart-pond.com*). Set it in bottom of urn and thread the cord through the larger hole. Attach the fountain spigot to the pump according to manufacturer's directions.

STEP C Set the urn inside the reservoir base, draping the cord over a hidden side of the base. Pour river rocks into the base to hide the cord and stabilize the urn. Fill base with water and plug in. Monitor water levels and top up as needed.

guides to an arbor heralding a brick path and vegetable garden beyond. The payoff is a destination worth the stroll—a rustic cedar shake-sided toolshed refashioned from a 30-year-old playhouse—a fitting vintage backdrop for the blooming bursts of cottage-style-inspired color.

"I can't name plants, I just look at the color," Dean says. "You can find out all you need to know about a plant by reading the plant tag."

Furnished Getaways

Other spots along the way invite dining and relaxing—a chair or bench here and there, a fountain tucked into cascades of blooms and a table and chairs as a cozy spot for dining.

Fittingly, it's not unusual for Dean to invite 30 or more guests to a spur-of-the-moment outdoor party. And why not: Who cares if someone spills wine on the lawn? Cleanups, too, are a breeze—just one more reason to take cottage style outside the house.

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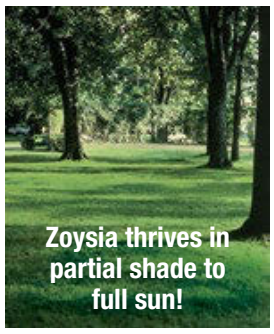

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When ordinary lawns brown up in summer heat and drought, your Zoysia lawn stays green and beautiful. The hotter it gets, the better it grows. *Zoysia thrives in blistering heat (120°)*, yet it won't winter-kill to 30° below zero. It only goes off its green color after killing frosts, but color returns with consistent spring warmth. Zoysia is the perfect choice for water restrictions and drought areas!

Our Customers Love Their Zoysia Lawns!

One of our typical customers, Mrs. M.R. Mitter of PA, wrote how "I've never watered it, only when I put the Plugs in... Last summer we had it mowed 2 times... When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours just stays as green as ever!"

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Amazoy is the trademark registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Zoysia grass.

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